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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

29 April 1999-7 June 2000

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2000

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
Abbreviations		(iv)
Introduction	1	1
Chapter		
I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	2-3	1
A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council	2-3	1
B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council		1
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION	4-6	2
A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies	4	2
B. Other activities	5	2
C. Relations with other United Nations programmes	6	2
III. FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION	7-428	3
A. Attendance and organization of work	7-20	3
B. Agenda	21	4
C. Account of proceedings	22-428	5
Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand	23-27	5
Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP	28-31	5
Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations	32-36	6
Membership of the Commission	37-38	6
Policy issues for the ESCAP region	39-97	6
Policy statement by the Executive Secretary	39-50	6
Implications of recent economic and social developments	51-76	8
Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis	77-97	11
Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	98-106	14
Emerging issues and developments at the regional level	107-313	14
Regional economic cooperation	107-147	14
Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eleventh meeting	108-115	14
Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme regional economic cooperation	116-129	15
Economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region	130-134	17
Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	135-140	18
Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	141-147	19

CONTENTS *(continued)*

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Environment and natural resources development	148-190	19
Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its second session	148-160	19
Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	161-171	21
Preparations for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000	172-177	22
Emerging issues and developments related to environment and natural resources development: mineral supply and land-use planning	178-187	23
Regional perspective on energy for sustainable development	188-190	24
Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	191-237	24
Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its second session	192-197	24
The empowerment of the rural poor through decentralization in poverty alleviation activities	198-202	25
Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions	203-215	26
Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region	216-220	28
Guidelines on the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific	221-222	28
Report on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and on progress in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific	223-224	28
Equalization of opportunities: inclusion of disabled persons in the development process	225-227	29
Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action	228-232	29
Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	233-237	30
Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	238-266	30
Statistics	267-303	33
Emerging issues and developments in statistics	267-287	33
Progress achieved and difficulties encountered in addressing the Y2K problem	288-291	36
Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	292-303	36
Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries	304-313	37
Programme planning	314-340	38
Draft medium-term plan of ESCAP for the period 2002-2005	314-322	38
Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999	323-335	39
Proposed programme changes, 2000-2001	336-339	40
Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2000-March 2001	340	41
Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	341-390	41

CONTENTS *(continued)*

		Paragraphs	*Page*
	Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies	391-418	46
	Asian and Pacific Development Centre	391-397	46
	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	398-401	47
	Mekong River Commission	402-405	47
	Typhoon Committee	406-410	48
	Panel on Tropical Cyclones	411-418	48
	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	419-425	49
	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission	426-427	49
	Adoption of the report of the Commission	428	50
IV	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION		51

Annexes

I	Revised programme of work, 2000-2001	56
II	Statement of programme budget implications of actions and proposals of the Commission	95
III	Meetings of subsidiary bodies and ad hoc ministerial conference	96
IV	Sales publications and documents issued by the Commission	98
V	List of publications, meetings and advisory services in 1999	103
VI	Terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	117
VII	Rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	119

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFACT	Asia Council for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport
AFFA	ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APAA	ASEAN Port Authorities Association
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APETIT	Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARC	Asian Reinsurance Corporation
ASCOBIPS	Association of Shippers' Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIMST-EC	Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CEFACT	Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDI	electronic data interchange
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
EU	European Union
FADINAP	Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GIS	geographic information systems
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HRD	human resources development
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAPH	International Association of Ports and Harbours
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
IRCA	International Railway Congress Association

ABBREVIATIONS *(continued)*

IRU	International Road Transport Union
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IULA-ASPAC	International Union of Local Authorities – Asian and Pacific Section
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSShD	Organization of Railways Cooperation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PIANC	Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses
POPIN	Population Information Network
RB	regular budget
RCCAP	Regional Collective Consultation of Youth NGOs in Asia and the Pacific
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
RNAEM	Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPECA	Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TRIMS	trade-related investment measures
TRIPS	trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights
TRISHNET	Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes on Human Settlements
UIC	International Union of Railways
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WINAP	Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
XB	extrabudgetary

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 29 April 1999 to 7 June 2000, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the 10th meeting of its fifty-sixth session on 7 June 2000.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission

2. At the first meeting of its fifty-sixth session, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

Inclusion of Georgia in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Noting* that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recommended the inclusion of Georgia in the geographical scope of the Commission and its admission as a member of the Commission,

"1. *Approves* the recommendation of the Commission that Georgia be included in the geographical scope of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and be admitted as a member of the Commission;

"2. *Decides* to amend paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission accordingly."

Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

3. At its 10th meeting, the Commission adopted resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, in which the Commission, in paragraph 2, proclaimed the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, in order to draw the attention and encourage the support of the international community for the intensification of economic and social development in the subregion and in paragraph 3, requested the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation.

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

56/1. Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009

56/2. Advancing human resources development in Asia and the Pacific

56/3. Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

56/4. Promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island states

56/5. Impending retirement of Mr. Adrianus Mooy, Executive Secretary of the Commission

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

A. Activities of the subsidiary bodies

4. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies and an ad hoc ministerial conference were held: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development; Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas; Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development; and Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies and the ad hoc ministerial conference to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

5. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 1999, under the programme of work, 1998-1999, of the Commission, are given in annex V to the present report. To the extent possible, the TCDC modality was applied in those activities, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1189 and Corr.1.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

6. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

7. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 1 to 7 June 2000.

8. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Australia	Nepal
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Bhutan	New Zealand
Brunei Darussalam	Pakistan
Cambodia	Papua New Guinea
China	Philippines
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Republic of Korea
Fiji	Russian Federation
France	Samoa
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Sri Lanka
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Thailand
Japan	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Tuvalu
Kiribati	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Lao People's Democratic Republic	United States of America
Malaysia	Uzbekistan
Maldives	Vanuatu
Mongolia	Viet Nam
Myanmar	Cook Islands
	Hong Kong, China
	Macao, China
	New Caledonia

9. By virtue of rule 5 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, Panama, Romania and South Africa attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Economic and Social Council resolution 860 (XXXII). Representatives of the Holy See attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme, United Nations Population Fund and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and World Trade Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian Productivity Organization, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Forum Secretariat, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, Typhoon Committee Secretariat and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, HelpAge International, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council on Social Welfare, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Bahá'í International Community, Disabled People's International, International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of

B. Agenda

21. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.142, E/ESCAP/L.143 and Corr.1).
4. Membership of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1156).
5. Policy issues for the ESCAP region:
   (a) Implications of recent economic and social developments (E/ESCAP/1157);
   (b) Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis (E/ESCAP/1158).
6. Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1159).
7. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
   (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1160-1162, E/ESCAP/1163 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1164 and Corr.1);
   (b) Environment and natural resources development (E/ESCAP/1165, E/ESCAP/1166, E/ESCAP/1167 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1168 and Corr.1);
   (c) Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (E/ESCAP/1169 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1170-1177);
   (d) Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (E/ESCAP/1178-1180);
   (e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1181-1183);
   (f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1184).
8. Programme planning:
   (a) Draft medium-term plan of ESCAP for the period 2002-2005 (E/ESCAP/1185/Rev.1);

(b) Report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/ESCAP/1186 and Corr.1);

(c) Proposed programme changes, 2000-2001 (E/ESCAP/1187);

(d) Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2000-March 2001 (E/ESCAP/1188);

9. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1189 and Corr.1);

10. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1190-1194);

11. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1195 and Add.1 and 2);

12. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1196 and Corr.1);

13. Other matters;

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

22. The session was declared open by the Chairperson of the fifty-fifth session, HE Ms. Nyamosor Tuya (Mongolia). HE Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

23. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to those attending the session.

24. The Asian and Pacific region was recovering rapidly and regaining its position as the fastest growing region in the world. That trend was expected to continue. The turnaround, which had been faster than expected, did not necessarily mean that the reform agenda had been accomplished. Many issues still had to be confronted to ensure that the recovery process was sustainable. In that regard, the capability to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative effects of globalization depended on strengthened national capacity. It was vital to carry out reform in the real and financial sectors continuously, promote good governance in both the public and the private sectors, and strengthen social development.

25. One hard lesson learned from the crisis was that countries in the region were not prepared to cope with the sudden rise in unemployment, poverty and destitution. What was required was the strengthening of the social security system and safety net programmes. In dealing with the crisis, the Government of Thailand had made social and human development its highest priority. The Commission's role in including on its agenda issues relating to social security and safety net programmes was therefore appreciated.

26. Regional and international cooperation was also vital to prevent or mitigate similar crises in the future. Thailand supported the initiatives for the establishment of a new international financial architecture and also endorsed the recommendations on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance, not only for the sake of providing an early warning system but also to assist governments in anticipating and thus taking the necessary steps to counter destabilizing factors at both the regional and the global levels.

27. In order to sustain global growth, it was necessary to help integrate developing countries into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis. Partnership between the developed and developing countries could lead to a "win-win" situation. The importance of that principle had been reiterated at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X), which had been held in Bangkok in February 2000. The theme topic of the current session, "Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis", was therefore timely and appreciated.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

28. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming the country's dedication and commitment to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and to the promotion of regional cooperation in the economic and social fields.

29. Since the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, there had been a dramatic upturn in the economies of the region. Growth had been substantially improved in an environment of macroeconomic stability. The improved growth performance of the ESCAP region had been observed in almost all its subregions. Fiscal stimulus, coupled with better export performance, had generated growth in many countries of the region affected by the crisis. It was also heartening to observe that that trend was likely to continue in the immediate future. It was projected that growth in the region would increase to above 6 per cent in the year 2000.

30. However, sustained growth in the region was by no means secured. There were already serious concerns regarding the increasing interest rates and the growth prospects of the economy of the United States as well as the strength of recovery in Japan. Those risks posed a series of policy challenges for governments in the region, which would also have to deal with the social effects of structural changes.

31. For its part, ESCAP remained committed to assisting the region's developing countries in building their capacity to cope with the numerous challenges that lay ahead. One of the principal purposes of the Commission was to see how best to address those challenges collectively with a view to accelerating the pace of growth and dealing with increasingly complex social issues.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

32. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the fifty-sixth session of the Commission was particularly timely, taking place in the wake of the meeting of the World Trade Organization in Seattle and the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Bangkok. At the start of the new millennium, the overarching challenge was to manage the risks and seize the opportunities of globalization. No region in the world should be without a plan of action designed to ensure that the benefits of globalization were shared by all.

33. The forces of globalization had ushered in faster economic growth, higher living standards, accelerated innovation and rapid diffusion of technology. However, globalization had also meant greater vulnerability to unfamiliar and unpredictable forces that could bring on economic instability and social dislocation. Concern and anxieties about those negative effects could not be ignored.

34. Globalization meant more than creating bigger markets; it was about the inclusion and integration of all countries and all people into the global economy, the international trading system and global society in general.

35. ESCAP had an important catalytic role to play in that process. Sound governance practices and stable institutions would be rendered that much more effective if they were surrounded by mechanisms at the regional, subregional and national levels. The Secretary-General had emphasized that point in his discussions at the ASEAN-United Nations Summit held in Bangkok early in 2000, and he urged the Commission to take that into consideration when discussing possible action in the region.

36. The ESCAP region faced a range of complex and pressing issues. In conveying his best wishes for the success of the session, the Secretary-General expressed confidence that the Commission could make important contributions to common progress.

Membership of the Commission

37. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1156.

38. The Commission endorsed the application of Georgia to become a member of the Commission within its geographical scope; it approved a draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council relating to the amendment of paragraphs 2 and 3 of its terms of reference in respect of the admission of Georgia as a member of the Commission.

Policy issues for the ESCAP region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

39. The Executive Secretary stated that the past three years had been a period of profound and unprecedented turbulence for the ESCAP region. It was gratifying that the region now appeared firmly poised to resume the momentum of healthy growth, with expansion of GDP averaging 5.6 per cent among the developing countries of the ESCAP region in 1999. That was highly respectable compared to the negligible rate of GDP growth the year before. Moreover, recovery had been broad-based in geographical terms, and had been achieved in an environment of remarkably low inflation.

40. The turnaround in the region had been driven by both external and internal factors. Externally, the strong performance of the United States economy, a gentle recovery in the European Union and a tentative upturn in Japan had been the main pulling factors. Internally, fiscal stimuli and higher exports had provided the principal pushing forces. External private capital flows, although much lower than their pre-crisis levels, had shown signs of returning to the region, with FDI featuring prominently in such flows. In addition, banks were reducing the levels of non-performing loans in their ongoing restructuring process, and were

recapitalizing their balance sheets. That would have a positive impact on both domestic and external market sentiment. Based upon those favourable trends, the developing economies of the ESCAP region were expected to improve upon their 1999 performance, with GDP growth reaching 6 per cent in 2000 and a further easing of inflation pressures.

41. However, there remained certain risks and challenges to the region in the medium term. The recent monetary tightening in the United States could slow the American economy and, through various ripple effects, induce higher interest rates in developing economies, with an adverse impact on their debt-service capacity, investment and economic growth. Such an impact would be compounded further without any compensating increase in demand from Japan or the European Union. Likewise, regional growth could be somewhat constrained if oil prices, and by extension inflation pressures, increased significantly later in the year.

42. The ongoing process of corporate and financial sector reform also continued to pose difficult policy challenges. Sustainable long-term growth required that the momentum of efficiency-enhancing measures be maintained. The recent recovery in exports had benefited from prevailing excess capacity and had also been driven by some competitiveness gained through exchange rate depreciations. Durable export growth in the medium term would require improved competitiveness in a variety of existing and new activities. In that connection, the Executive Secretary mentioned the rapid growth of the Internet and electronic commerce in the past few years, and the opportunities that such a trend had created for achieving higher export growth. However, a firm agenda to exploit the opportunities provided by electronic commerce had to be in place at the national, regional and subregional levels.

43. The deepening integration between the developed countries and the region had made the region's financial markets vulnerable to periodic bouts of volatility. Events since 1997 had underlined the need for economic and financial surveillance and monitoring and for developing an early warning system to deal with the adverse impact of financial market volatility. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2000* contained an in-depth study on the subject. The study had been carried out in response to Commission resolution 55/2 of 28 April 1999.

44. Events at the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Seattle were a reminder that globalization created both winners and losers. It was a measurable achievement that the Bangkok Declaration, which had come out of UNCTAD X, held in Bangkok in February 2000, had re-emphasized commitment to a fair and equitable multilateral trading system. Nevertheless, it had to be recognized that many countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, remained ill-prepared to cope with the challenges posed by globalization. The Executive Secretary reiterated the call that all exports from least developed countries should enjoy duty- and quota-free access to markets in developed countries.

45. The crisis in the region had brought to the forefront the complex issue of social security and safety nets. Governments in the region had an inescapable responsibility to play a central role in ensuring social protection and sustaining social stability, including through the establishment of efficient, effective and comprehensive schemes of social protection in such areas as unemployment, health care and old age. The *Survey 2000* contained a review of the social security and safety nets in those areas implemented by developing countries in recent years. Within the broad context of social problems and issues, demographic parameters such as population size, composition and growth rates remained key issues in economic and social development. The Executive Secretary referred to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region adopted at the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1994, and amended at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, held in 1997, which contained time-bound goals and targets in addressing a range of social issues of concern. The Executive Secretary expressed the hope that those goals and targets would serve as a reference for governments in strengthening their policies on social development.

46. One of the most important objectives of development was its long-term sustainability from an environmental standpoint. An important avenue towards sustainable development was the improvement of production systems through technologies which utilized resources more efficiently and created less waste. ESCAP was in the process of preparing for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, which would take place in Kitakyushu, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000.

47. The nature of transport issues similarly underscored the need for a more comprehensive policy framework towards sustainable transport development, one which would strike a balance between accessibility and the protection of human safety and the environment on the one hand, and between economic growth and social equity on the other. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the global preparatory process being conducted for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in April 2001.

48. The Executive Secretary stressed the need to recognize statistics as an essential ingredient in the development process and for adequate resources to be devoted to the collection, production and analysis of statistical information.

49. In September 2000, the General Assembly would be convening a gathering of Heads of State and Government for the Millennium Summit, aimed at addressing the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century. The Executive Secretary strongly emphasized that the region should continue to subscribe to the universal values of freedom, equity and solidarity, tolerance, non-violence, respect for ecology, and shared responsibility, as enunciated by the Secretary-General in his report for the Millennium Summit entitled *We the Peoples: the Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century*.

50. The Executive Secretary concluded by expressing his gratitude to the member and associate member governments for their consistent support during his tenure.

Implications of recent economic and social developments

51. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1157, entitled "Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues", and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2000*. It noted that those documents provided an apt assessment of recent developments and prospects in the global and regional economy.

52. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the countries of the region, particularly those that had been hit by the crisis that began in 1997, had staged a remarkable recovery, aided by a number of domestic policy initiatives as well as favourable external developments. Optimism was expressed that the recent growth performance would help in enhancing the confidence of investors, generating employment and stabilizing stock markets and exchange rates, and would provide a springboard for further growth. However, reassuring prospects should not generate a sense of complacency and economic reforms must proceed with even greater vigour. Many countries of the region remained highly dependent on and vulnerable to the external environment, and there were potential risks which might cause a new unfavourable development. In that connection, the Commission stressed the need for strengthening the preventive approach.

53. The Commission observed that globalization had become an irreversible process. Developing countries had no option other than to integrate into that process or they would risk further marginalization. Globalization offered opportunities for accelerating development through access to export markets, through external capital, including FDI, and through productivity-enhancing advanced technologies. Membership of and effective participation in such international organizations as WTO were major stages towards enabling countries of the region to benefit from the globalization process, and the unimpeded access of all interested countries to such organizations was therefore desirable. However, the benefits of globalization were not evenly distributed. Inequalities between and within countries had increased. The quality of the environment had deteriorated. As the recent financial crisis in the region and elsewhere had shown, many countries, particularly developing countries, had become vulnerable to the debilitating impact of massive movements in short-term speculative capital, and the technological divide between rich and poor nations had widened. In view of the ramifications of the still unfolding process of globalization, the active involvement of the United Nations in macroeconomic policy-making and coordination was considered imperative.

54. The Commission expressed the view that, as a result of the economic recovery, the trade and investment flows among countries and regions would improve further in the coming years. However, the recovery process needed to be further strengthened to achieve stability with improved competitiveness of the economies. In that context, the Commission emphasized the urgency of integrating the developing countries at the regional and global levels through improvements in their technological levels. It particularly underscored the urgent need for the least developed countries to move effectively in that direction.

55. The Commission held the view that the ESCAP secretariat had a significant role to play in promoting trade, investment and technological linkages through the strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation. The importance of the secretariat's programmes in trade policy training, strengthening subregional trading arrangements and providing technical assistance for institutional and human capacity-building was underscored.

56. The Commission emphasized the need to reconcile the trend towards regional integration within the framework of the multilateral trading system. It took note of the growing emergence of regional trading arrangements and observed that such regional arrangements should be within the broad framework of the multilateral trading system.

57. The Commission recognized the important role of FDI in human resources development, technology transfer and accelerated economic growth. It was suggested that research on measures to attract FDI would be useful.

58. The Commission agreed that the private sector was the engine of growth and that the role of government had changed from provider to facilitator. It also recognized the importance of FDI, particularly in the form of joint ventures, to national economic development through its potential contribution to capital, technology, skills, employment, market access and, in some cases, to the privatization process. It was considered imperative that countries maintain open economies. Various economies in the region had implemented policies to strengthen the private sector and promote FDI, with varying degrees of success. For that reason, the Commission urged ESCAP to continue its technical assistance activities in the areas of private sector development and the promotion of FDI to disadvantaged economies in the region, paying particular attention to strengthening the legal and institutional framework in those economies.

59. Trade liberalization and liberal economic policies had helped countries that pursued them to grow more quickly than those which had not followed such policies. There was, however, no guarantee that globalization and structural reforms would lead to the eradication of poverty, improved health care or better education for all. The Commission was concerned that mass unemployment and widespread poverty and illiteracy continued to be major problems in many countries of the region. Those problems were further aggravated by the recent financial and economic crisis, which had affected the lives of millions and caused severe social deprivation.

60. The Commission highlighted the importance of the provision of adequate social security and safety nets to ensure reasonable access to minimal income and basic social services, particularly for the vulnerable social segments, during difficult circumstances such as involuntary unemployment in an economic crisis. The Commission was pleased that the *Survey 2000* contained a section on various policies and programmes concerning social security and safety nets pursued by member governments. In several countries, provision for social protection encompassed a broad range of basic needs, such as education, health, housing and certain basic amenities, including energy, water and sanitation. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue to act as a regional centre for the promotion of poverty eradication. It noted with appreciation the establishment by the Government of Japan of the Japan Social Development Fund at the World Bank, the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction at ADB, and the Human Security Fund at the United Nations. Those facilities were intended to help the socially vulnerable people and communities that had suffered most from economic crisis and restructuring.

61. The Commission took note of the importance of the agricultural sector in many economies of the region. The sector was a significant source of value added, employment, raw materials and exports. The recent economic crisis in the region had further highlighted the importance of the sector as a social safety net mechanism. Most countries would therefore have to pay greater attention to improving their agricultural productivity.

62. The Commission noted that while the economic dimension of development was important, the social or human aspect of development should not be overlooked. Although it was primarily the responsibility of each country to strengthen its own national human and institutional capacity, cooperation at both the regional and the international levels would be beneficial. Furthermore, the provision of training was essential for personnel working in priority areas such as poverty alleviation, formal and non-formal education, community empowerment, population, health and social services, and the environment. The target groups most deserving of assistance included the rural and urban poor, women, youth and children. In an age of dramatic breakthroughs in information technology, development was becoming increasingly dependent on building capacity for a knowledge-based society.

63. The Commission stressed the need for efforts to be made to reduce the knowledge gap, which would include the building of a worldwide public information infrastructure, the dissemination of information on best practices for access to technology, and the strengthening of the educational basis and vocational training to equip younger generations with the skills to enable them to function effectively in a knowledge-based society. It was informed that the Government of Pakistan was in the process of establishing the Asia-Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology in Islamabad as a centre of excellence. The government requested the secretariat to cooperate actively in that process, provide technical assistance for the efficient operation of the Centre, and encourage its optimum use by member countries.

64. The recent financial and economic crisis that had affected many countries in the ESCAP region had brought to the fore the volatility of short-term, speculative financial flows and the problems which that caused for the macroeconomic management and development of developing and transitional economies, as well as the influence it exerted on the confidence of investors. The liberalization of domestic capital markets and the rapid growth of international capital markets in recent years had created a new and uncertain scenario for countries seeking financing for their domestic investments. There was thus a clearly recognized need to undertake a thorough reform of the international financial architecture and improved surveillance of the international financial system and the establishment of common prudential standards for

the financial sector. While much background work had been done on the main issues, including managing short-term flows, the momentum of reform needed to be maintained.

65. The study prepared by the ESCAP secretariat in implementation of Commission resolution 55/2 of 28 April 1999 on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region, which appeared as part two of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2000*, was commended by the Commission as an excellent review and analysis, with many valuable findings as well as useful recommendations that required action by member States and the ESCAP secretariat. It was noted in particular that there was a need for the active engagement of ESCAP developing members in the process of building the new financial architecture and in issues of relevance to global surveillance, so that the reforms could take into account the interests and circumstances of all countries.

66. The Commission recognized that international cooperation on monitoring and surveillance was increasing on both a regional and a global basis, including the more extensive and more frequent exchange of financial information and peer reviews to encourage governments to take into account the impact of their policies on their neighbours, and to assist in anticipating and countering destabilizing factors with rapid remedial measures. It noted that monitoring and surveillance increasingly needed to respond to regional concerns, and not only national concerns, as the countries of the region were becoming more integrated and there was a need to safeguard against contagion effects from financial problems arising in any one country. It noted that that concern had already been concretized in the ASEAN Surveillance Process instituted in March 1999, which included an exchange of information and a peer review mechanism.

67. The Commission observed that there was a role for the ESCAP secretariat in facilitating the development and functioning of monitoring and surveillance systems, in cooperation with relevant financial institutions. It requested the secretariat to select several core areas in which it had a strong comparative advantage, and to focus its activities on those areas in a more intensive manner. The secretariat should be more involved in following selected indicators and in analytical work in the area of monitoring and surveillance. While other institutions had the requisite expertise to set up formal surveillance systems on financial matters, ESCAP should contribute by organizing regional and subregional meetings, workshops and informal dialogues among its member countries and various stakeholders to exchange experiences, develop their understanding of the issues involved, and formulate a common position on elements of the reform process. ESCAP could thus address the issue of under-representation of developing countries in the reform process by becoming a vehicle for the promotion of their concerns and proposed solutions at the main centres of decision-making.

68. The Commission highlighted the need of developing countries for stable and sustained financial and investment flows from official and private sources, the mobilization of domestic resources, and development-oriented debt relief and debt management programmes. It noted that those concerns would be taken up at the High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development, to be held in Jakarta from 2 to 5 August 2000. The conclusions of that meeting would form part of the discussions at the High-level Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001. Those meetings were expected to lead to vigorous, concerted and effective follow-up action to help in meeting the financial needs of developing countries.

69. The Commission welcomed the complete bilateral debt relief which had been provided by one government to the heavily indebted poor countries. It expressed the hope that other creditor countries would follow that lead and start a virtuous circle of debt relief, poverty alleviation and economic development.

70. The Commission noted the importance of good governance, the absence of which hindered free and fair trade, distorted competition, placed unacceptable costs on business and undermined the democratic process. It took note of the offer of one member country to work with other partner countries, business and other organizations to induce companies to act in an ethical and socially responsible manner. The Commission expressed support for the initiative of the Secretary-General for a "global compact" which would encourage the wider spread of socially responsible business behaviour and practices.

71. The Commission was concerned at the increasing marginalization in world trade and capital flows experienced by many least developed and landlocked developing countries, Pacific island developing economies and economies in transition. The recent decline in the flows of real ODA and FDI to many of them was another worrying trend. The Commission urged improved access for exports of major interest to those disadvantaged economies, especially in markets where tariff and non-tariff barriers persisted. It took note of the readiness of Japan to promote, in conjunction with other developed countries, an initiative to accord duty- and quota-free treatment to essentially all goods originating in the least developed countries. It also took note of the initiative of one country in implementing its own non-tariff regime for products of substantial export interest to least developed countries.

72. The Commission accorded high priority to the promotion of regional and subregional economic and technical cooperation, including in trade and financial interaction, and in human and institutional capacity-building for mutual benefit. The secretariat was urged to make every effort to assist developing countries in integrating more effectively into the multilateral trading system, especially those seeking WTO membership and those disadvantaged economies which had been increasingly marginalized in the globalization process. The Commission also requested the secretariat to address the special needs of trade and transit facilitation for the landlocked developing countries. It noted that the least developed and landlocked developing countries, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition would require further technical assistance to strengthen their institutional and human resources capacity to implement macroeconomic reform, to participate fully in the multilateral trading system, and to formulate and implement integrated investment, technology and enterprise internationalization policies. The Commission expected that ESCAP would help the least developed countries of the region to prepare themselves in a meaningful way for participation in the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2001, and in that context took note of the request of the Government of Bangladesh to hold the proposed high-level regional meeting in Dhaka, in collaboration with UNCTAD.

73. The Commission noted that energy constituted an important sector in each country of the region and offered great potential for regional cooperation. In that respect, it attached great importance to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in April 2001, to review and assess the issues in the implementation of energy for sustainable development in the context of Agenda 21. It recommended that the ESCAP region should provide valuable inputs to the discussion at that session. It welcomed the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host a regional meeting on energy for sustainable development and that of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an international meeting on energy efficiency in the oil and gas sectors. It urged all ESCAP members and associate members to extend their full support for organizing those meetings.

74. The Commission noted the concerns of small island members and associate members regarding their narrow resource base, persisting energy import dependency and overall economic vulnerability. The secretariat was called upon to facilitate the necessary technical and financial assistance required for making the island energy systems more sustainable. The Commission adopted resolution 56/4 on the promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island states.

75. The Commission also took note of concerns expressed by several countries regarding the fragile nature of their ecosystems and the need to improve environmental protection. Owing to the growing population and increasing demand for clean water, it was becoming more important to ensure the maintenance of water quality and to support Agenda 21 issues related to water resources and the environment. Many countries in the region also relied on the supply of minerals as part of their development process, and therefore it was important to monitor the transport of mineral waste carefully to safeguard environmental protection.

76. The Commission emphasized the importance of the 10-year review, to be held in 2002, of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which had been held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. In that connection, the Commission noted the preparations by the secretariat for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, to be held in Kitakyushu, Japan from 31 August to 5 September 2000 and to be hosted by the Government of Japan. Among the expected outcomes of the Ministerial Conference was the Kitakyushu initiative for a clean environment as a viable strategy for urban environmental management. The Commission urged members and associate members to extend their full support to the Ministerial Conference in order to make a valuable contribution to the 10-year review of the 1992 Conference.

Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis

77. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1158, summarizing the theme study entitled *Development through Globalization and Partnership in the Twenty-first Century: an Asia-Pacific Perspective for Integrating Developing Countries and Economies in Transition into the International Trading System on a Fair and Equitable Basis* (ST/ESCAP/2054). It commended the secretariat on the high quality of the study and endorsed the policy recommendations it contained.

78. The Commission noted that trade had been the driving engine of growth in the region and that countries with open trading regimes had generally benefited from higher living standards, accelerated innovation and rapid diffusion of technology. However, in the wake of more open policy regimes, greater instability with significant social upheaval had also been experienced in some countries. Furthermore, rising income inequalities and increased marginalization both within and among countries had given rise to significant negative effects that could no

longer be ignored. Given the irreversible nature of globalization and interdependence, the overarching challenge facing the region was therefore both to manage the risks and to seize the opportunities of globalization, such that the benefits emanating therefrom could be shared more equitably.

79. The Commission reaffirmed its strong commitment to a rule-based multilateral trading system that operated in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner and that ensured predictable and secure market access. In the absence of a universal mechanism that would enable all countries to reap mutual and equitable benefits, WTO was of paramount importance to the expansion of trade, continued economic prosperity and all-round balanced development. The Commission held the view that WTO could play a pivotal role in the effective integration of developing and other countries into the international trading system by promoting a global trade regime that took adequate care of the special needs of those countries. Against that background, the Commission welcomed the theme topic as both important and timely.

80. The Commission noted that, despite significant domestic difficulties arising in large part from the recent economic crisis, members and associate members had faithfully implemented their Uruguay Round commitments and in some instances even gone beyond WTO obligations in their unilateral efforts at trade liberalization.

81. The Commission noted that in the aftermath of the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Seattle, significant differences existed among countries on the future negotiating agenda. Some delegations expressed support for the commencement of a comprehensive new round of multilateral trade negotiations with an inclusive agenda responding to the various interests and concerns of each country. Other delegations held the view that problems arising out of the implementation of Uruguay Round agreements would need to be redressed without delay and on a stand-alone basis. In that regard, existing imbalances and asymmetries in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the lack of implementation of provisions in favour of developing countries on special and differential treatment which had to date remained best-endeavour clauses, would need immediate attention. Furthermore, the Commission noted with interest that, as a result of the coordinated and concerted efforts of developing countries, concerns arising from the implementation of Uruguay Round agreements would be addressed through a time-bound programme of special sessions of the WTO General Council.

82. The Commission noted the views of several delegations that, as several developing members and associate members were experiencing difficulties in implementing onerous Uruguay Round commitments, the transition periods contained in the agreements needed to be extended. In that regard, it noted with appreciation the readiness of the Government of Japan to undertake a range of initiatives, including the training of the human resources required for the implementation of those agreements.

83. The Commission noted the cautious view against overloading the trade agenda with issues extraneous to trade, such as environmental and labour issues. Measures such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade should be applied in the least trade-restrictive manner, so that they did not become new forms of protectionism. Furthermore, the Commission urged against the misuse of anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

84. The Commission stressed that the rural sector provided a major source of livelihood for a large proportion of the region's people. Further liberalization efforts under the built-in agenda should therefore be in support of, and not work against, economic development programmes that ensured food security and poverty reduction. At the same time, some delegations expressed the view that agricultural exports from members and associate members of ESCAP should be accorded wider market access opportunities by major importers. Greater market access in textiles and clothing, through the faithful implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, was also noted by the Commission as an area of importance to the region's exports.

85. The Commission noted with concern that as tariff peaks and tariff escalation persisted on products in which developing countries traditionally enjoyed comparative advantage, concerted efforts were needed to widen market access opportunities in those areas. Furthermore, it urged that developed countries make firm commitments to accord duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports originating in the least developed countries.

86. The Commission noted that a number of members and associate members were not yet members of WTO, and that the WTO accession process continued to impose a heavy burden on their limited human and institutional capacity. Expeditious accession to WTO on a fair and equitable basis was therefore an important consideration, and the secretariat was requested to continue to accord high priority to its technical assistance and advisory services in that regard.

87. The Commission, observing that some concerns of developing countries, though significant, were as yet unresolved, viewed with interest the ongoing confidence-building efforts in WTO. It also expressed strong support for the contribution made by UNCTAD X in consolidating a convergence of views on long-term development strategies that would make globalization an effective instrument for development.

88. The Commission acknowledged the vital role that regional trading arrangements could play in enhancing the integration process of developing countries and economies in transition into the world economy. In that context, the accession of China to the Bangkok Agreement was expected to contribute significantly to the expansion of trade in the region. It noted, however, that further study on the trade impact of various regional trading arrangements was needed to assess the extent to which they were in fact trade-enhancing and not trade-substituting.

89. The Commission held the view that the complexity of WTO agreements and strengthened dispute settlement procedures required extensive knowledge and resources to enable developing countries to implement the obligations and be able to exercise their full rights accruing from the agreements. In that regard, it reiterated its support for the positive role which the secretariat could play. In particular, it requested the secretariat to carry out policy-oriented research and analytical work, in coordination and consultation with the relevant international organizations. Activities aimed at institutional and human resources capacity-building activities should also receive priority attention. The secretariat was commended for its constructive collaboration with WTO in launching a joint training programme that would provide valuable capacity-building opportunities for developing countries.

90. The Commission expressed the view that both trade facilitation and electronic commerce could play a vital role in the integration of countries in the ESCAP region into the international trading system. It recognized that, in an era of knowledge-based economy, the debate on electronic commerce should take into account the development dimension. It also expressed concern that, unless developing countries were able to take advantage of the Internet revolution in an effective way, the income gap between developing and developed countries could widen. The secretariat was requested to continue to provide technical assistance to bridge the digital divide and to facilitate the exchange of best practice experiences in such areas as electronic data interchange and creating an adequate legal environment.

91. The Commission stressed that the enormous benefits to be gained from the advancement of technology, such as information technology, biotechnology and environmentally sound technology, should be shared fairly in the interests of sustainable development and the improvement of standards of living in both developing and developed countries. It held the view that the enhanced partnership of developing and developed countries was required to improve the access of developing countries to information technology, including electronic commerce capability-building, especially for developing competent human resources, as well as their access to financing for technology transfer and adoption, particularly through FDI, leading to their better integration into the international trading system.

92. The Commission further emphasized that regional cooperation could complement national efforts in technological development considerably through the sharing of experiences and information, human resources and knowledge development, and the building of information infrastructure and capabilities. In that connection, it welcomed the organization by the Government of India and the secretariat of the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, to be held on 21 and 22 June 2000, and the Asia Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT 2000), to be held in November 2000, and invited all members and associate members to participate actively in those events.

93. The Commission further noted with interest that Pakistan was establishing the Asia-Pacific Centre for Information and Communication Technology in Islamabad, and had requested the secretariat to provide technical assistance in the setting up and operation of the Centre.

94. The Commission highlighted the vital role of transport in providing essential access to global markets, and the need for further investment in enhancing infrastructure capacity and operational capabilities. It noted that the existing inefficiency created additional, unnecessary transport costs which were an impediment to economic progress and the integration of developing economies and economies in transition into the international trading system. The Commission noted the policy reform measures being implemented by several member countries in the transport and communications sector.

95. The Commission recognized the additional challenges confronted by landlocked countries owing to their remoteness from world markets, prohibitive transit costs and other constraints which they faced in accessing seaports, especially as a result of the absence of unified border-crossing procedures. It stressed the importance of transit transport arrangements which would facilitate the through movement of goods and people, and welcomed the initiatives that were being taken by some countries. It also recognized the special transport problems confronting island developing countries, including the high cost structures which were constraining trading opportunities.

96. Noting the unique role of ESCAP, the Commission requested the secretariat to further promote regional cooperation in the transport sector by identifying and highlighting the concerns of developing countries and economies in transition with the objective of reducing transport costs and facilitating access to larger markets, in particular through the development of diversified, efficient and effective routes, so that they might exploit the benefits of trade liberalization fully.

97. The Commission noted the request of Cambodia for ESCAP assistance, over and above the general technical and financial assistance being provided by traditional donors, in upgrading infrastructure and transport capacity to promote the integration of that country into ASEAN.

Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

98. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1159, containing an interim review of reform measures undertaken at ESCAP pursuant to resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

99. The Executive Secretary introduced the review of the ESCAP reform process and stressed that reform was an ongoing and continuing exercise. He drew the attention of the Commission to further fine-tuning measures to be undertaken, to the need to convene an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting to undertake a comprehensive review of the reform, and to the new framework of inter-agency cooperation among United Nations bodies in the region.

100. The Commission held the view that the reform process was to improve the efficiency of ESCAP and enhance its role in promoting social and economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region.

101. The Commission welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 53/1 as outlined in the document and noted the various constraints on the effective performance of its subsidiary structure. Those constraints included the broad coverage of certain legislative committees which had led to less focused discussions, such that the level and nature of representation of the member governments had been affected.

102. The Commission recognized that further efforts to enhance the reform process were indispensable; it recommended that committee deliberations should focus more on the needs of member countries, and that efforts towards coordination and synergy within the secretariat should be continuously improved. The Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Urban and Rural Areas was specifically cited in that regard. It was suggested that that Committee could consider its two subprogrammes in alternate years, focusing attention on specific issues at each session.

103. The Commission observed that panel discussions and presentations of case studies at committee sessions were a useful means of making meetings more interactive, and recommended that those measures should be continued.

104. The Commission considered the proposal to hold an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting late in 2001 or early in 2002 in anticipation of the comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 53/1 to be undertaken at its fifty-eighth session in 2002. The Commission requested ACPR, with appropriate assistance from the secretariat, to conduct preparatory work for the review and to decide later whether it would be necessary to convene such a meeting.

105. The Commission recognized the important role of ACPR in the process of review and appraisal of the implementation of the resolution. It recommended that ACPR should further examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in that regard, with particular reference to areas of focus of the committees.

106. The Commission noted the decision taken at the Second Regional Coordination Meeting, held in Bangkok in April 2000, to abolish the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific and replace it with the Regional Coordination Meeting. It also supported the new structure of thematic working groups which were more focused and time-bound, while recognizing that those groups were not all-inclusive.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Regional economic cooperation

107. The Commission had before it the report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eleventh meeting (E/ESCAP/1160); the document on emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1161), and the report on the implementation of Commission resolution 55/2 on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region (E/ESCAP/1162); as well as reports on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (E/ESCAP/1163 and Corr.1) and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (E/ESCAP/1164 and Corr.1).

Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eleventh meeting

108. The Commission endorsed the major recommendations, conclusions and decisions in the report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eleventh meeting.

109. The Commission held the view that the impact of the crisis in the region had been far-reaching; the integration of financial markets had spread instability

to several countries at the same time. It noted that the recovery process in the region was under way and that the overall economic prospects in the region were positive. However, there was still a need to exercise caution and to ensure that the process of recovery was durable. The crisis underscored the need to reform the international financial architecture so as to reduce the volatility associated with short-term speculative capital flows. In that context, some delegations referred to the usefulness of the cautious application of selective capital controls at times when such flows could potentially be disruptive. The Commission agreed that regional cooperation needed to be strengthened to avoid or minimize any future financial crisis. At the national level, individual countries needed to strengthen their economic fundamentals to reduce the risks and increase the benefits of participation in the global financial system. Sound macroeconomic management was crucial to help stabilize financial markets in the countries in crisis and support an early return to growth. In addition, greater emphasis on structural, institutional and other governance-related reforms was needed to sustain high growth. Some delegations expressed the view that the current recovery should not lead to complacency and thereby undermine the urgency of reforms. The momentum of the reform process should be sustained.

110. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the important and timely initiatives taken by the Government of Japan to revitalize the economies of countries hit by the Asian financial crisis and urged the government to continue to provide such assistance.

111. The Commission recognized the importance of regional trading arrangements as a stepping stone in a broader trade liberalization strategy consistent with the WTO process. In particular, regional trading arrangements could contribute to increased market access, higher investment inflows and economies of scale, and strengthen the positions of member countries in multilateral trade negotiations. However, the Commission emphasized that regional trading arrangements should facilitate the integration of developing countries into the global trading agenda and should be consistent with the provisions of WTO. It requested the secretariat to undertake a study examining the development impact of regional trading arrangements on their members, the harmonization of standards and the role of developing countries in international standard-setting bodies. The study should include a comparative analysis of rules of origin under various regional trading arrangements. The Commission also noted the request for a study on whether regional trading arrangements were trade-enhancing or trade-substituting.

112. The Commission observed that, although the Bangkok Agreement had hitherto made only modest contributions to trade flows among the member countries of those regional trading arrangements, owing to the limited membership, and the scope and coverage of products and tariff cuts, recent positive developments, such as the accession of China to the Agreement, pointed towards its strengthening and a fuller realization of its potential. The Commission also noted with appreciation the interest expressed by the Government of Mongolia in joining the Agreement soon. In addition, it noted that a BIMST-EC expert group was currently exploring the possibility of establishing a free trade area among the BIMST-EC member countries, and endorsed the recommendation of the Steering Group that ESCAP should expedite a feasibility study for that purpose.

113. The Commission recognized the important role of the small and medium-sized enterprise sector in economic development and acknowledged the adverse impact of the economic crisis on that sector. While SMEs were generally flexible in structure and could therefore adjust relatively quickly to changing conditions, their overall performance was hampered by a lack of capital, technology, marketing support, skills, effective linkages with larger enterprises and a supportive macroeconomic environment. It was noted that various countries had implemented a range of policies and schemes to address those concerns and needs. There was a particular need to strengthen research and development and skills development for SMEs, for instance in the use and application of information technology, including electronic commerce. The Commission commended the secretariat on its various technical assistance activities implemented for SMEs and requested that such activities be continued and further strengthened.

114. The Commission adopted the draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, recognizing that it provided a broad framework and vision for formulating more specific activities under the related programme of work.

115. It noted with appreciation that the Republic of Korea would host the twelfth meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation. The meeting, to be held in Inchon City from 25 to 27 October 2000, would focus on new approaches to trade and investment policies in the post-crisis era.

Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation

116. The Commission noted that regionalism had emerged as a trend of great significance, and accorded high priority to regional economic cooperation and the promotion of trade and investment flows as a means of responding to the challenges facing the region. In particular, it stressed the useful role that regional trading arrangements could play in promoting

economic development and facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world trading system.

117. The Commission noted that in the aftermath of the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Seattle, United States, from 30 November to 3 December 1999, significant differences existed among countries on the future negotiating agenda. It acknowledged the concerns of many countries that, prior to the launch of any new round of comprehensive trade negotiations, the existing imbalances and asymmetries in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the lack of implementation of provisions in favour of developing countries and on special and differential treatment, which had to date remained best-endeavour clauses, should be addressed.

118. The Commission also acknowledged the concerns of many countries that the transition periods stated in several agreements needed to be extended, the misuse of anti-dumping measures and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical barriers to trade measures, needed to be addressed, as well as action taken for the removal of tariff peaks and tariff escalation on products in which developing countries traditionally enjoyed comparative advantage. The dispute settlement mechanism should also be brought within reach of the lower-income countries.

119. The Commission acknowledged the widely held opinion that there was a need to avoid overloading the WTO agenda with issues extraneous to trade that could give rise to new forms of protectionism. Furthermore, it observed that attempts to link trade with issues such as labour and environmental standards could delay further the likelihood of a future round of negotiations. It also underscored the importance of ensuring WTO universality by facilitating the process of accession.

120. The initiatives proposed by the "quadrilaterals" (Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States) to address the concerns of developing countries and the other confidence-building initiatives under way in WTO were noted with interest by the Commission. It expressed its strong support for the Plan of Action adopted at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000, because it contributed to a greater convergence of views and placed development issues at the core of globalization.

121. The Commission requested that the secretariat should continue to accord high priority to its technical assistance activities in policy analysis related to regional and multilateral liberalization, to accession to WTO, and in training on the implementation of WTO agreements.

122. The Commission held the view that the use of information technology for gaining access to information had become increasingly important for the competitiveness of SMEs. However, in general, SMEs did not rely heavily on information technology, including electronic commerce, in their production and trade. A concerted effort by stakeholders was required to increase access by SMEs to information technology through the promotion of technology transfer, the establishment of information infrastructure, human resources development, the provision of consultancy services and the creation of science and technology parks. While pointing out that regional cooperation might significantly complement national efforts in promoting the use of information technology by SMEs, the Commission noted with appreciation the work of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the secretariat in organizing the regional consultative meeting on strengthening technology incubation systems for creating high technology-based enterprises, to be held in Seoul in August 2000. It requested the secretariat to disseminate widely the findings of the meeting and implement follow-up activities. The Commission also welcomed the offer of the Government of Malaysia to share that country's experiences with other developing countries and least developed countries in the promotion and development of SMEs.

123. The Commission stressed that information technology and globalization created opportunities for the developing countries and economies in transition of the ESCAP region to enhance their engagement in trade-related development and to widen their integration into international trade and financial markets. In that regard, the Commission noted with appreciation the work of the Government of India and the secretariat in organizing the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, to be held in New Delhi on 21 and 22 June 2000. While emphasizing the importance of that event, which would provide a forum for regional countries to discuss the application of information technology and to integrate the regional dimension into the high-level deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, to be held in July 2000, the Commission urged members and associate members to participate actively in the Regional Round Table.

124. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific, which endeavoured to promote consultancy organization in the region. In that regard, it noted with appreciation the generous assistance provided by the Government of India for the Programme and its offer to arrange secretariat services for it, to be provided by the Consultancy Development Centre of India, which was already supporting the Programme on a permanent basis. The Commission urged the secretariat to

enhance its cooperation with the Programme and potential donors to extend financial support to its activities.

125. The Commission reiterated the importance of trade facilitation as an essential complement to trade liberalization and stressed the need for capacity-building to promote the adoption of trade facilitation measures, such as the harmonization and simplification of trade, customs and administrative procedures and electronic data interchange for the expansion of global trade.

126. The Commission noted the importance of information technology and electronic commerce as catalysts for the integration of developing countries, in particular Pacific island countries and landlocked countries, into the international trading system. However, it expressed concern over the widening information gap between the developed and the developing countries and stressed that the ongoing debate on electronic commerce at WTO should take into account the concerns of developing countries. The Commission emphasized the important role that ESCAP could play in providing technical assistance aimed at building capacity for developing countries lacking in physical and human capital, as well as access to information, so that those countries could share the benefits from the growth of electronic commerce and information technology. In that context, the Commission expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea in promoting human resources development in the area of information technology. It commended the efforts of the secretariat in promoting the effective use of information technology to facilitate trade and investment.

127. The Commission noted with appreciation the increasing cooperation between ESCAP and ITC, both in traditional areas such as trade information and export promotion, and in new areas relating to WTO agreements, SME development and electronic commerce. It noted that the new ESCAP Memorandum of Understanding with WTO, signed in 1999, would further enhance cooperation between the two organizations.

128. The Commission noted with interest that Bhutan had acceded to the Asian Clearing Union and that the Union continued to facilitate trade among its members.

129. The Commission adopted resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009.

Economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region

130. The Commission complimented the secretariat on the professional and comprehensive study on economic monitoring and surveillance prepared in response to Commission resolution 55/2 of 28 April 1999, and on the practical relevance of the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1162.

131. The Commission noted that the recent financial and economic crisis in the region had highlighted the need to reform the international financial architecture, including allowing countries to cope with the volatile nature of short-term, speculative flows of capital which could seriously disrupt their development process. Such reform would require global action to make the system more equitable and supportive of developing countries, national action to strengthen macroeconomic policy regimes, and supportive subregional and regional activities. A major part of the reform would involve finding ways to minimize the possibility of future crises and mitigate their spread and effect, including through monitoring and surveillance. In that regard, there was a need to strengthen national policies and technical and analytical capabilities for crisis prevention and crisis resolution. Subregional, regional and global efforts in early warning could be important in ensuring that any situation that had the potential to cause economic and financial instability was clearly signalled and governments could respond in a timely and responsible fashion. Those activities, coupled with enhanced transparency and policy consistency by all players in the financial markets, would help to reduce the potential for crises.

132. The Commission noted that there was important action in the reform process to be undertaken at the national level to reduce the risks and to increase the benefits of globalization. Several countries reported on such national initiatives, including maintaining sound macroeconomic fundamentals, reforming their national financial systems, improving regulatory procedures, enhancing transparency and reporting processes, and adopting international norms and standards. The Commission recognized that effective monitoring and surveillance activities at the global and regional levels had to be based on appropriate national systems and that there was a clear need to strengthen the capability of individual countries to undertake such activities.

133. The Commission noted that surveillance and policy coordination at the regional level could help to reduce the risk of future crises and that there were several ongoing initiatives in monitoring and surveillance in the region. Those included one by APEC, the Framework for Enhanced Asian Regional Cooperation to Promote Financial Stability (Manila Framework), the Asia Recovery Information Center being developed by ADB and the ASEAN Surveillance Process. It was necessary to build on those initiatives, to identify the most appropriate mechanism applicable, and to widen the coverage to include more countries,

and not only those struck by the recent crisis. In that regard, there was a desire to make sure that work in that area was developed in a coordinated and non-duplicative manner, and that it responded to the needs of countries without overtaxing their capacity.

134. The Commission considered that there was a role for ESCAP in the area of monitoring and surveillance to exploit its comparative advantage as a source of technical assistance, advice and analysis, while the establishment of mechanisms of monitoring and surveillance fell within the purview of the Bretton Woods institutions and ADB. It should also provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience on issues of concern, including appropriate indicators, especially in the non-traditional areas of institutional and social vulnerabilities, as well as developments in the debate on the reform of the international financial architecture and developing country participation in that process. It should also monitor trends, provide an analysis of economic and financial developments in the region and bring matters of concern to the notice of member States. The Commission endorsed the recommendations for action by ESCAP in document E/ESCAP/1162, on the understanding that their implementation would vary, depending on the requests from members and associate members, as well as on the expertise and financial resources available.

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

135. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology as contained in the report on the Centre (E/ESCAP/1163 and Corr.1).

136. The Commission, while recognizing that SMEs constituted the backbone of industry in most developing countries, observed that that sector faced numerous difficulties – in terms of the current low levels of technology, weak linkages with larger firms, difficulties in skills development, capacity-building, financing and marketing – in meeting the challenges posed by globalization as well as the new economy. APCTT was requested to assist developing countries through appropriate technology transfer mechanisms as well as human resources development and training programmes so that the requisite capacities could be created for the transfer and adoption of new and modern technologies, including the appropriate managerial and technical expertise. The Commission noted with interest the offers made by several countries, including the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, to provide assistance in information, capacity-building and training for the adoption of environmentally sound technology, information technology and telecommunications.

137. The Commission, in noting with satisfaction the technology transfer, developmental and operational initiatives of the Centre, urged it to enhance its activities to assist SMEs of developing member States in utilizing information and communication technology as a strategic tool to improve the competitiveness and profitability of those enterprises. Such measures would significantly facilitate investment and trade in and through information and communication technology in the region.

138. The Commission endorsed in principle the proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the fourteenth session of the Governing Board that a subregional network of APCTT be established in that country to strengthen technical cooperation among Central Asian and Middle Eastern countries and other ESCAP member countries, as well as its proposal to host a permanent secretariat for a regional cooperative policy mechanism to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technology within the region. The Government of Bangladesh also requested that APCTT should set up a branch of the Centre in Dhaka in order to facilitate effective technology transfer in that country. APCTT was encouraged to proceed with the implementation of other proposals made by member countries during the session of the Governing Board.

139. The Centre was directed to undertake programmes to promote the use of indigenous technologies and to continue with its human resources activities related to technology management. The Centre was also urged to intensify its activities in the area of the development of women entrepreneurs. A number of countries cited their experience in those areas and their willingness to share that with other member countries.

140. While endorsing the report of the Governing Board and its recommendations, the Commission urged member countries to provide the required institutional support for APCTT and to adhere to the formula already agreed upon for the establishment of an endowment fund so that countries could be provided with effective assistance. It also requested donor countries to provide the programme support needed for APCTT activities. In that context, it expressed gratitude to the governments of Germany and the Netherlands for the substantial assistance provided by them for the Centre. It also expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its continued support, including financial support, other host facilities and the provision of the services of experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis, which was currently under consideration. The Commission noted the host country's concerns regarding contributions by other member countries to the endowment fund.

Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

141. The Commission observed that the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery had provided member countries with useful and beneficial assistance in terms of agricultural mechanization and related institution-building. It also took note of the significant contribution made by RNAM to promoting the exchange of technical information on agricultural machinery, the exchange of machinery for adaptation and the development of agricultural mechanization in the developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region.

142. It took note of the deliberations of the Governing Body and endorsed the report (E/ESCAP/1164 and Corr.1) and its recommendations for implementation. In doing so, it directed the secretariat to continue seeking extrabudgetary contributions for the programmes for the year 2000-2001. In that context, it also approved the expansion of RNAM activities in the area of post-harvest technologies and those designed to take advantage of leading-edge technologies. It suggested that while developing its expanded work programme, RNAM should also keep in mind the following areas: mechanization of horticultural crops, post-harvest technology of fruits and vegetables, low-cost surface-covered cultivation and agricultural waste and by-product utilization. Special care should be taken to undertake activities in the area of human resources development at the national level for post-harvest and food-processing technologies.

143. Consistent with the above endorsement that it should cover a broader concept of engineering in the development and adaptation of agricultural technology, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Governing Body that the name of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) should be changed to the Regional Network for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (RNAEM).

144. It also welcomed the secretariat proposal to develop and implement project-related appropriate technologies for use by disabled farmers and other weaker sections of society.

145. The Commission supported the efforts of the secretariat in negotiating a host country agreement, including provision for a project manager, and hoped for an early agreement for the smooth functioning of the Network. In that context, it welcomed with appreciation the offer made by the Government of China to consider the matter positively. It directed the secretariat to continue to provide necessary backstopping for the project at ESCAP in Bangkok until other permanent arrangements had been made.

146. The Commission hoped that, with the conclusion of the agreement on host facilities and the provision of a project manager, and the prompt payment of contributions by participating member countries, RNAEM would be able to provide member countries with expanded services and assistance.

147. The Commission requested donors and agencies to provide programme funds for the continuation and expansion of the useful and beneficial work undertaken by RNAEM. It also expressed its deep gratitude to the governments of China, Nepal and the Republic of Korea for their financial and in-kind assistance for RNAM activities during past years. While expressing appreciation to the Government of India for its offer to host Agrimach 2000 and the Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Body meetings in 2000, the Commission agreed to the proposal to postpone the Agrimach event until 2001, as the requisite funds with RNAEM were not yet available. The secretariat was directed to pursue that matter and other arrangements with the Government of India for the organization of Agrimach 2001.

Environment and natural resources development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its second session

148. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/1165). It expressed support for and endorsed the recommendations of the report, covering a wide range of issues: policy issues relating to integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making; efficient utilization of energy in supply-side facilities and demand-side management; and integrated assessment, development and management of land and mineral resources for sustainable economic development.

149. The Commission noted with appreciation the information provided by the delegations on their national experience and achievements in various areas of environmental protection and natural resources development.

150. The Commission endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the secretariat should continue its activities in the area of the integration of environmental considerations into economic policy-making processes and its work on the strategic environmental initiative in close collaboration with other international agencies. It requested the secretariat to facilitate greater capacity-building in the integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making through the use of market-based instruments in addressing environmental and natural resources issues as well as cleaner technologies, information exchange, the promotion of public awareness, community participation in environment-related issues and the incorporation of environmental issues in human

resources development. Considering the multidisciplinary strength of ESCAP, the Commission advised the secretariat to undertake interdisciplinary environment programmes.

151. The Commission commended the secretariat on having carried out successfully a wide range of activities in the fields of the environment, energy, water resources, mineral resources, space technology applications, including GIS and remote sensing, and natural disaster reduction. It also appreciated the useful advisory services provided by the secretariat on the environment, energy, water and mineral resources, and recommended that the secretariat should continue to provide those services.

152. The Commission noted the work of the secretariat in promoting strategic environmental management. It called upon the secretariat to continue its efforts to implement Agenda 21 at the regional level, through, inter alia, training, exchange of experience, institutional networking and twinning of institutions of developed and developing countries, and closer collaboration with relevant organizations such as UNDP, UNEP and donor countries and organizations. The Commission called on the secretariat to further strengthen its activities in the integration of environmental considerations into the overall programme of work in various sectoral areas. It expressed the need for ESCAP to continue work in the strategic planning and management of the environment sector and to expand further to other priority sectors of natural resources, including energy, water and mineral resources.

153. The Commission considered it imperative to continue strengthening regional and subregional cooperation so as to address environmental problems effectively. It recommended that ESCAP should continue to play a significant role in enhancing subregional environmental cooperation in the region, particularly in North-East Asia. It appreciated the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held in Seoul on 9 and 10 March 2000, which included the adoption of a Vision Statement for Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, the launching of several worthwhile projects and an agreement on establishing a core fund to support that cooperation. The Commission encouraged the North-East Asian countries to participate fully in implementing the Vision Statement.

154. While noting that the responsibility for implementing sound environmental practices and strategies rested with member governments, the Commission reiterated its request that the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, in terms of ODA and technology transfer should be fulfilled, and that additional financial and other resources should be made available to developing countries.

155. In view of the significant increase in energy consumption in the ESCAP region, the Commission regarded the need for increased energy development as urgent but also noted the associated environmental impact of the exploration of natural resources, specifically energy. It noted that there was significant room for improvement in energy efficiency on the supply and demand sides. It also emphasized the importance of harnessing renewable sources of energy, such as hydrogen energy, and hydropower, including small and medium-sized power plants.

156. Recognizing the challenges faced by policy makers in the region in addressing issues related to sustainable energy development, the Commission re-emphasized the importance of promoting the efficient utilization of energy through developing regulatory mechanisms and frameworks emphasizing incentives and disincentives. It recommended that the secretariat should provide technical assistance on the guidelines and inputs required in promoting appropriate national policies in that respect. It also stressed the need to promote and facilitate the transfer of energy-efficient technologies. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of some countries to share their experience and to support specific regional schemes and initiatives to promote energy efficiency.

157. The Commission also recognized the usefulness of the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities, as promoted by the secretariat. It saw the proposed classification as providing clear-cut criteria for classifying reserves/resources by means of systematic coding, and as a platform for worldwide usage to facilitate easy understanding.

158. The Commission recognized the importance of GIS in the integrated assessment, development and management of land and mineral resources, and urged the secretariat to assist countries in strengthening their national capabilities in that field.

159. It expressed satisfaction that countries in the region had made considerable progress in using remote sensing and other space technology applications for their national economic and social development activities. It acknowledged the technological developments of several member countries in space technology, which would provide greater opportunities for the operational use of space technology for natural resources management, environmental monitoring and disaster mitigation. It noted the offer by various members to share their experience in the applications of space technology and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for the benefit of developing countries of the region in space technology development and applications.

160. The Commission noted the importance of natural disaster reduction for economic and social development in the twenty-first century. It recognized the importance and benefits of regional and subregional cooperation in disaster management and mitigation.

Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

161. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1166, the report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held in New Delhi from 15 to 20 November 1999. It expressed satisfaction with the successful organization of the Conference and conveyed its deep appreciation to the Government of India for its support and hosting of the Conference.

162. The Commission endorsed the report of the Conference and its annexes: the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium. It also endorsed the launching of the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP II). It noted with satisfaction that the ESCAP secretariat had already initiated certain activities in pursuance of the recommendations of the Conference.

163. The Commission acknowledged the significant progress achieved in the field of space technology applications in the region as a result of the implementation of RESAP since its inception at the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held in Beijing in 1994. It noted that RESAP had raised awareness of the usefulness and potential of space technology and its applications for sustainable development, and provided an important forum for the exchange of information and opportunities for regional cooperation among the countries in the region.

164. The Commission noted that, through the implementation of RESAP, a number of countries had established national space agencies or space application programmes and had accorded high priority to space technology applications, and accordingly had integrated space applications into their national development plans. However, space technology applications were not yet at an operational level in most countries owing to the lack of trained personnel and inadequate financial resources. It noted that efforts should be made to move from research-oriented activities towards more practical and operational use of space technology applications, and recommended that those techniques should be integrated into the sustainable development planning of countries in the region. It urged ESCAP to continue promoting the efficient use and applications of space technology; it agreed that national capacity-building in space applications and human resources should be strengthened through the support of RESAP II, and that developing countries should be provided with further assistance.

165. The Commission acknowledged that the Conference had included in its Strategy and Action Plan an adequate Minimum Common Programme which addressed the essential requirements of most countries in the region in the fields of environment and natural resources management, food security and agricultural systems, capacity-building, human resources development and education, poverty alleviation, natural disaster reduction, health care and hygiene, and sustainable development planning towards improving the quality of life. It also recognized that the application areas selected were pertinent to the region, and especially to developing countries.

166. The Commission recognized that RESAP was an important programme for multilateral cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in the region; it urged the secretariat to accord due priority to the activities proposed in the Strategy and Action Plan and RESAP II and to continue incorporating them as a regular component of the programme of work of ESCAP, keeping the Commission informed periodically of the progress made. It recommended that the secretariat should continue to play its pivotal and catalytic role in pooling the resources of the region in order to achieve greater cooperation under the Programme. It further recommended that the capability of the secretariat should be strengthened to support the regional cooperative network so as to ensure successful implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

167. The Commission urged ESCAP members and associate members to participate actively in the cooperative programme of space applications of importance for the countries. It recognized the need to pool resources and synergize efforts among countries in the region to achieve concrete and meaningful results, as well as among regional initiatives to minimize duplication. It further noted that the action recommended in the Strategy and Action Plan at the national level should be adapted to the conditions and requirements of the respective countries.

168. The Commission noted the interest of countries in participating in RESAP II and acknowledged with appreciation the offers made by some countries to provide in-kind support for the implementation of identified projects of the Programme. It acknowledged the willingness of the countries to share their expertise, to conduct human resources development activities and to offer the

services of operational satellites in the region for national as well as regional cooperative projects under RESAP II. It recommended that bilateral cooperation opportunities should be promoted through RESAP II, which would in turn promote greater regional cooperation.

169. The Commission considered it essential for the region to have a cooperative mechanism with long-term sustainability. It therefore requested the secretariat to consider an appropriate mechanism for effective implementation of the priority projects of the Minimum Common Programme of RESAP II; to maximize the available resources and to increase those resources whenever possible so as to coordinate the various recommended activities in the Strategy and Action Plan in an effective manner, and to take into consideration the cost-effectiveness in implementing space applications activities.

170. The Commission recognized the essential role played by the regional cooperative network, with the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development as the nucleus, in assisting ESCAP with effective coordination and cooperation in regional space applications activities. It considered that the momentum should be maintained and urged members and associate members to enhance their representation on the Consultative Committee, which should continue to advise, as appropriate, on the implementation of the Programme.

171. The Commission adopted resolution 56/3 on regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Preparations for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000

172. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1167 and Corr.1, on the preparations for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, scheduled to be held in Kitakyushu City, Japan, from 31 August to 5 September 2000. Recognizing the paramount significance of the Conference, it expressed satisfaction with the excellent documentation of preparatory activities and reiterated its support with regard to further preparations for the Conference.

173. The Commission emphasized the importance of continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 and acknowledged the progress made in that regard through the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000. It stressed the importance of the Conference as a means for further implementing Agenda 21 in the region through the adoption of a regional action programme for 2001-2005. It also acknowledged the importance of the expected outcomes of the Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration and the regional message for the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of Agenda 21, to be held in 2002. The Commission also noted that there would be a presentation on the Kitakyushu initiative for a clean environment.

174. The Commission noted that the Conference would play a central role in raising the profile of environmentally sustainable development in the region as well as providing an opportune forum for addressing key environmental issues. In particular, it suggested that, as the precursor of the 10-year review ("Rio + 10") of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 and a follow-up to that Conference, the Ministerial Conference should consider the following issues in the spirit of the principles established at the Rio Conference: the integration of environmental considerations into development decision-making; the implementation of international environmental agreements; capacity-building through human resources development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on preferential terms; financial constraints in the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular the recent economic crisis and the decline in ODA; the need for developed countries to honour their commitments made at the Rio Conference in 1992, with regard to ODA; and the importance of regional and subregional cooperation in the area of environment and development. The Commission also noted that the Conference would serve a key function in designing regional contributions to "Rio + 10" in 2002. In that connection, it stressed that holding the meeting for "Rio + 10" in Asia could provide the driving force for realizing sustainable development in the region.

175. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for its support and preparations for hosting the Conference. It noted that Japan would separately organize the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (ECO ASIA 2000), which would be held in Kitakyushu on 3 September 2000. The Commission further noted that, in conjunction with the Conference, the organizers in Kitakyushu were planning to host a number of associated events, including an NGO symposium and a media symposium to promote multi-stakeholder participation and explore the roles of NGOs and the media in the pursuit of sustainable development. It also noted that an exhibition of environmentally sound technologies would be held in association with the Conference.

176. The Commission noted the outcomes of recent ministerial-level meetings, in particular the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, held in

Beijing in February 2000, and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Malmo, Sweden, in May 2000. The Commission urged the Conference to build on the momentum of the outcomes of those meetings. It stressed that the success of the Conference would require the full participation of all concerned in the preparatory process and in the deliberations at the Conference.

177. The Commission noted with satisfaction the continuing cooperation between UNEP and the secretariat, particularly in the organization of the Conference.

Emerging issues and developments related to environment and natural resources development: mineral supply and land-use planning

178. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1168, regarding emerging issues and developments related to mineral supply and land-use planning for sustainable development.

179. It took note of the slowdown in FDI since 1997 owing to the financial crisis, unreliable ore resource estimates and the decline in metal prices. The situation had improved since 1999 and there was currently an upward trend in such investment flows. However, it was noted that the recent developments related to "life cycle" assessment in mining and refining, decentralization from central to provincial governments, sharing of resource rent and emerging issues-related partnerships of stakeholders would generally affect the achievement of sustainable mineral supply in the region. Such factors would also affect the future supply and demand scenarios, especially taking into account the fact that the region was generally deficient in base metals.

180. The Commission endorsed the general statements and conclusions made by the secretariat regarding the emerging issues and developments related to mineral supply and land-use planning for sustainable development. It invited further initiatives by the secretariat in those matters through organizing and sponsoring seminars, workshops and individual and group training courses for participants from member countries. Those events were to focus on specific themes, skills development and institution-building.

181. The Commission noted the emerging issues related to the decentralization and sharing of resource rent, the social aspects of illicit, artisanal and small-scale mining and strengthening stakeholder participation, and urged the secretariat to provide training and advisory services on (a) the application of environmental economic assessment as an additional tool in the approval of mining projects; (b) the use of economic instruments for environmental management by the private sector in conjunction with command and control regulations, and (c) the use of environmental management systems such as ISO 14000 to improve environmental performance in mining and mineral resource development.

182. The secretariat was also requested to convene a meeting of heads of National Geological Surveys in the region to discuss emerging issues related to sustainable mineral supply and land-use planning so as to formulate a strategy for mutual cooperation and the sharing of experience and knowledge.

183. Some delegations commended the secretariat on its activities in the assessment of the mineral and hydrocarbon resource potential in North-East Asia, along with environmental cooperation and the promotion of clean-coal technologies in that subregion.

184. The Commission appreciated the ongoing efforts of the secretariat to promote the use of geoscientific information in land-use and urban planning. It noted the need to continue those efforts in view of the fact that, in too many cases, planners and central or local authorities in member countries still tended not to use geoscientific advice adequately in their decision-making. To bridge that obvious gap in communication, the secretariat was urged to continue its promotional efforts and training activities aimed at improving the presentation skills of National Geological Survey departments, such as the preparation of user-friendly thematic maps that were easy for laymen to understand and would have a better chance of being utilized in the planning process.

185. The Commission called attention to arsenic contamination of groundwater from natural causes. One delegation drew attention to the regional consultations convened by WHO in 1997 on that subject and urged ESCAP to look at the recommendations of the consultations relating to various approaches at several levels, including the local and national levels. It suggested that ESCAP should study how it could assist in implementing some of those recommendations in consultation with the countries and organizations concerned.

186. Also on the issue of freshwater resources management, the Commission noted the need for the formulation of policies, programmes and strategic plans which emphasized the vital role of water in satisfying basic human needs, food security, poverty alleviation and the protection of ecosystems, the participation of local communities, particularly women, and strengthening the capabilities of governments and regional and international institutions to enhance the integrated assessment and management of water resources.

187. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1168, with the deletion of chapter I, section B on international environmental law constraints and

the impact on recycling for secondary metals, comprising paragraphs 13-17, and the reformulation of paragraphs 56 and 57 of the conclusions and recommendations. A corrigendum (E/ESCAP/1168/Corr.1) was issued to reflect the changes.

Regional perspective on energy for sustainable development

188. The Commission noted that energy was a crucial input to economic and social development and improved quality of life, and that the energy sector was one of the major contributors to the deteriorating quality of the environment in the Asian and Pacific region. It also noted that the developing countries of the region would require more energy services to meet their basic needs and to improve their standard of living. The Commission recalled the need to move towards sustainable patterns of production, distribution and use of energy, as stressed in the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in 1997, and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002. The Commission also noted the call by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1999/60 of 30 July 1999 on preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, on energy issues, for governments to actively participate in and contribute to the preparatory process; in that connection, it welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an international meeting on energy efficiency in the oil and gas sector, to be held in Tehran in November 2000.

189. The Commission also recalled that, at its fifty-fourth session, held in 1998, it had encouraged the secretariat to continue to facilitate and enhance regional and subregional cooperation in promoting sustainable energy development and use, and had noted the secretariat's initiative to provide a regional forum for the preparation of inputs to the global consultation process of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It further noted the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Energy and Sustainable Development, held in New York in March 2000, which had recognized the need for the active exchange of information on energy and sustainable development leading to the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the importance that the Group of Experts attached to regional cooperation in addressing the challenges of energy for sustainable development, as well as the potential role that the United Nations regional commissions, including ESCAP, could play in providing a regional perspective as an input to both the second session of the Group of Experts and the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

190. In recognition of the above considerations, the Commission decided to hold a high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development, and welcomed the offer made by the Government of Indonesia to host that meeting. It urged all members, associate members, United Nations bodies and concerned agencies, regional institutions and organizations, and civil society to participate actively in the preparations for the meeting, as well as in the meeting itself. The Commission requested the secretariat to organize the high-level regional meeting on energy for sustainable development in November/December 2000 and to initiate substantive preparations for the meeting, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and other regional agencies and organizations, and in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It also requested the secretariat to ensure effective coordination among governments, relevant regional institutions and civil society to enable them to participate in and contribute to the meeting, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session on the outcome of the meeting.

Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas

191. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1169 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/1170-1177. It commended the secretariat on the quality of the documents and endorsed the recommendations that they contained.

Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its second session

192. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1169 and Corr.1. A number of delegations described the measures that their governments were taking to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas. Overall social and economic development, in many cases promoted through five-year development plans, was the principal means of poverty alleviation. National development plans gave particular attention to lagging regions or to disadvantaged groups in the population. Human resources development through education and training was essential for poverty alleviation and development. National policies took into account the demographic trends of population ageing, migration and rapid urbanization.

193. The Commission noted that programmes targeting disadvantaged groups were necessary to alleviate poverty. Members described the programmes that had been effective in their countries, including programmes of employment generation through public works, food-for-work, encouraging school attendance,

microcredit (especially for rural women), providing land for the landless, and community-based development. Countries in the region had achieved impressive reductions in the share of the population living in poverty, although setbacks had occurred as a result of the Asian economic crisis that had begun in 1997.

194. The Commission noted that the adverse impact of the recent economic crisis had been stronger and had lasted longer than expected in several of the countries affected. Despite economic recovery, unemployment rates and the incidence of poverty remained relatively high in those countries. Various targeted programmes by governments and community-based organizations had helped to ameliorate the suffering of the people affected by the crisis and such programmes should be continued and strengthened. At the same time, more broad-based growth policies should be pursued for the benefit of the lower-income groups.

195. The Commission stressed several ways in which the secretariat could assist governments in their efforts to alleviate poverty. The secretariat should monitor socio-economic trends, including the incidence of poverty. The Commission requested the secretariat to conduct a regional study on national poverty alleviation programmes in order to document successful approaches through case studies. The secretariat should bring information on best practices and successful approaches to governments through workshops, seminars and TCDC activities. It should also carry out a regional assessment of social safety net programmes. The Commission stressed that the secretariat must set priorities in its programme of work on poverty alleviation in order to enhance the impact of its activities. It should cooperate more closely with ADB, other international agencies and NGOs in its efforts towards the alleviation of poverty. The secretariat should carry out its work in a transparent manner, with adequate monitoring, evaluation and analysis of the results.

196. The Commission stressed the importance of such projects as the "Human Dignity Initiative", which exemplified cooperation between international and grass-roots organizations as well as among community-based initiatives, local governments and NGOs. It recognized the need to build the capacity of urban local governments to perform their traditional roles and responsibilities effectively and efficiently, to apply principles of good governance and to address the new challenges of globalization. In that respect, it noted the increasing role of urban government in promoting local economic development. As examples of local government capacity-building, it cited CITYNET as a particularly cost-effective form of networking and regional cooperation among cities in the region, and LOGOTRI as a unique network of local government training and research institutes. The Commission recommended the use of the Internet for capacity-building.

197. The Commission emphasized the importance of human resources development as a means of alleviating poverty. Among the various aspects of human resources development, the provision of education and health was highlighted as a cornerstone of development. In emphasizing the importance of basic education as a foundation for all human resources development programmes, the Commission took note of the need to support initiatives to promote "Education for All", as called for by the World Education Forum, held in Dakar, Senegal, in April 2000. The Forum had emphasized the need for the formation of broader partnerships beyond the education sector to achieve the goals of "Education for All". The secretariat was urged to accord priority to education programmes, particularly to promote "Education for All". The Commission also recognized the value of the secretariat's human resources development activities to train national personnel working in various sectors of poverty alleviation. It called upon the secretariat to continue to implement human resources development training activities for the capacity-building of national personnel in poverty alleviation and rural development programmes.

The empowerment of the rural poor through decentralization in poverty alleviation activities

198. In considering document E/ESCAP/1172, the Commission noted that the alleviation of rural poverty remained an important and critical task for the developing countries in the region because of the large gap in income between urban and rural areas. A number of countries in Asia and the Pacific had introduced far-reaching reforms to alleviate rural poverty by improving governance through the devolution of authority and responsibility. The recent Asian financial crisis had provided the impetus to strengthen local governments to sustain and raise the quality of economic growth. While government and non-governmental organizations had been involved in the empowerment of the rural poor through decentralization, there had been no systematic documentation on the lessons learned. Successful examples and best practices in empowering the poor should be documented and disseminated in such a way as to reach the rural poor.

199. The Commission stressed the important role played by decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of women in the alleviation of rural poverty. It pointed out that the secretariat paper had touched upon the core points and suggested possible regional activities to support the member countries. It urged that more should be done by the secretariat to learn from success cases and best practices in the region, and to disseminate them more widely. That could be done by organizing national or regional

workshops, through print and the electronic media and exchange of expertise, including through TCDC or ECDC. The Commission specifically urged the secretariat to undertake follow-up activities on, inter alia, interrelationships among governance, decentralization and rural poverty alleviation and the empowerment of the rural poor through decentralization. It urged the secretariat to assign priorities to its activities and to focus on population trends, rural development and the alleviation of poverty.

200. The Commission took note of the ESCAP activities regarding information dissemination on rural poverty alleviation and the environmentally friendly use of agro-chemicals to support food security. It appreciated the activities carried out by FADINAP and urged that the Network continue its work. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted that that country would host a regional expert group meeting on integrated pest management and green farming in rural poverty alleviation in October 2000.

201. The representative of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation of the research activities and their dissemination for the development of small enterprises in rural areas under the ESCAP/FAO project on success case replication. It was emphasized that the project had generated market-oriented employment opportunities in a pragmatic and innovative way to eliminate poverty in rural areas, and the secretariat was urged to continue to work in that field.

202. The Commission strongly urged bilateral and multilateral donors to provide financial and technical support on a priority basis to carry out follow-up activities in the above areas. It was also pointed out that assistance for good governance would have a very great impact in rural areas in achieving poverty alleviation targets, particularly in the least developed countries.

Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions

203. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of its resolutions and decisions, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1170.

Resolution 48/3 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

204. The Commission recognized the secretariat's efforts to improve awareness of the right of disabled persons to participate in the mainstream development process and to promote their access to the built environment. Further to those efforts, there had been national progress on strengthened legislative measures for barrier-free environments and infrastructure for disabled persons. Many governments also informed the Commission of national initiatives for diverse disability groups, including measures to improve public awareness of disability issues, as well as to extend the coverage of rehabilitation services and meet the basic needs of disabled persons.

Resolution 49/6 on the Proclamation and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

205. The Commission requested the secretariat to provide further assistance in facilitating technical cooperation on disability concerns. Areas cited for continued secretariat assistance related to policy and other measures for mainstreaming disabled persons, especially measures to promote disabled persons' participation in education, vocational training, income-generation, sports and culture, and legislative protection according to the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, as well as human resources development for multisectoral collaboration at the local, subregional and regional levels.

Resolution 51/2 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific

206. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to promoting regional cooperation in the field of human resources development. It noted with appreciation the establishment of the ESCAP Network of Centres of Excellence for HRD Research and Training, which had a membership of 113 institutions. The Commission called upon the secretariat to utilize the existing network as a mechanism for further regional cooperation in the field of human resources development. Many delegations referred to successful national efforts to promote human resources development, particularly programmes to promote education, health, and employment generation among the poor and in other vulnerable social groups. The exchange of such national experience and best practices could serve as a basis for further regional cooperation in the field of human resources development.

Resolution 51/4 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Resolution 54/2 on the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

207. The Commission commended the secretariat on its dedication to social development as a mission. Several governments informed the Commission of the high priority that they attached to social development. Nevertheless, the financial crisis that had begun in mid-1997 had affected implementation in the ESCAP region of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development held in 1995. Many economies in the region needed time to emerge from the crisis. Economies in transition were also hit hard by poverty as a result of the closure of state-owned industrial

enterprises and rural-to-urban migration. The Commission was informed of adjustments made at the family and community levels to protect education and health, reduce consumption of non-essential items and protect the groups worst affected by the crisis.

208. The Commission underscored the need to ensure that allocations for social development were increased during economic and financial crises, or at least maintained, to reduce their negative social impact, especially on family structure, cultural values, social institutions and stability, and marginalized groups.

209. Some delegations informed the Commission of the focus of their respective social safety net programmes on employment orientation, labour-intensive public works targeted at the poorest and the unemployed, credit schemes for training and self-employment and loan programmes for low-income households. The Commission emphasized the need to enhance social protection, especially of the poor in general and vulnerable social groups in particular. In that task, ESCAP should strengthen its role in facilitating intercountry exchange by drawing on intraregional experience to strengthen social policies and social safety net programmes, and by collaborating with civil society.

Resolution 51/7 on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

Resolution 52/3 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

Resolution 53/2 on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women

210. The Commission commended the secretariat on its implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women. It appreciated the successful convening of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, held in Bangkok in October 1999, the outcome of which constituted the regional input for the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be held in June 2000.

Resolution 52/4 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific

211. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's programme to promote the human resources development of youth. It called for attention to be given to employment programmes for youth, particularly rural youth, as a means of generating income and promoting rural development. The Commission highlighted the need for programmes for young people requiring special protection. The importance of the provision of educational opportunities for those young people was also emphasized.

Resolution 53/4 on the elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

212. The Commission commended the secretariat on the successful implementation of the 12-country regional programme to strengthen the human resources development capabilities of national personnel to combat the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth. It held the view that the work of the secretariat in pursuance of resolution 53/4 was an example of a best practice in the implementation of a well-focused regional programme, taking into account the comparative advantage of ESCAP. The Commission took note of the visibility of the programme in the region, as exemplified in the good national and local press coverage. It also noted the success of the secretariat in mobilizing strong donor support and funding for the implementation of activities called for under the resolution.

Resolution 54/1 on strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century

213. The Commission recognized the secretariat's comparative advantage in promoting the empowerment of persons with disabilities in relation to the full participation and equality goal of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. In doing so, it directed ESCAP to extend greater support for disabled persons, focusing on documenting and disseminating best practices and lessons learned. The Government of Japan reiterated its willingness to extend continuous support for ESCAP activities concerning the empowerment of disabled persons.

Resolution 54/4 on the mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region

214. The Commission noted that the secretariat had actively assisted members and associate members in achieving their population and development goals by providing technical assistance and training, conducting research and disseminating information.

Resolution 54/5 on the International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages

Resolution 55/4, Towards a society for all ages: Macao Declaration and Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific

215. Further to the successful observance of the International Year of Older Persons and the adoption

of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake studies on the economic and social implications of population ageing. It also urged the secretariat to continue initiatives that would extend effective support to the establishment and strengthening of national policies for older persons, and especially the effective and early implementation of the Macao Plan of Action.

Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

216. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1173, including the recommendations contained in the annex, with one government expressing a reservation with respect to paragraph 31 of the report and recommendation 26 in the annex. The Commission emphasized that developed countries should be encouraged to keep their commitments to ODA and to increase allocations for social development. Such encouragement should be provided to reverse the current decline in ODA and to recognize agreed international targets for such assistance as indicative planning targets.

217. The Commission emphasized that poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration should continue to have high priority in national development agendas. Furthermore, the provision of education, health and other social services to target groups such as the poor, older persons and persons with disabilities should be strengthened to facilitate their full participation in mainstream society.

218. The Commission expressed concern over the negative effects in many countries of the ESCAP region of globalization and structural adjustment programmes that neglected to integrate social dimensions. The human crisis that had resulted from the recent economic and financial crisis was felt to be even more serious and one that called for rethinking of development approaches. In that regard, the Commission highlighted the need for a framework of principles and examples of good practice concerning social policy and social development that would give equal weight to human and social development and macroeconomic fundamentals, and respect national sovereignty, as well as address the diversity of societies in the ESCAP region; at the same time, it should promote a more humane and equitable development path that would yield greater resilience to external shock and be more conducive to the participation and inclusion of all stakeholders.

219. In view of the negative impact of widening gaps between the poor and the affluent within and among countries associated with the recent economic and financial crisis, the Commission emphasized the need for targeted social protection and social justice measures, including innovative informal measures, for vulnerable groups. It also emphasized the need to review and strengthen the effectiveness of social safety net programmes as a poverty alleviation measure.

220. The Commission expressed appreciation of secretariat assistance through implementation of a regional social development management information system (SOMIS) project, which had useful outcomes for strengthening social development planning, monitoring and evaluation. It recommended that ESCAP, in collaboration with other concerned bodies, should continue the provision of technical assistance in further developing SOMIS, including the regional dissemination of information on good practice. Regarding the development and standardization of social development indicators, the Government of India indicated that it had a certain expertise and expressed its willingness to be associated with ESCAP activities in that regard.

Guidelines on the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific

221. The Commission endorsed the guidelines on the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific as contained in document E/ESCAP/1174.

222. While noting with appreciation that, in many countries, national policies on ageing and national mechanisms to mainstream issues relating to older persons had been established, the Commission emphasized the need to implement the Macao Plan of Action in consonance with the guidelines. It requested the secretariat to continue providing technical assistance and support in the effective implementation of the Macao Plan of Action at both the national and the regional levels. It also suggested that more training activities and information exchange forums, including regional and subregional seminars, should be organized on issues related to ageing.

Report on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and on progress in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific

223. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1175. It noted with satisfaction the successful observance of the International Year of Older Persons in the ESCAP region, in which many countries had adopted national action plans in preparation for ageing societies in the twenty-first century. The Republic of Korea informed the Commission of two major international meetings on developing a framework for policies for a society for all ages, and on gerontology, that had been held in Seoul in 1999. The Commission expressed appreciation of the role of the secretariat in the promotion of the Year. Anticipating the Second World

Assembly on Ageing to be held in 2002, the Commission requested the secretariat to play an active role in preparing regional inputs to the Assembly.

224. The Commission highlighted the significance of rapid population ageing in the ESCAP region and the urgency of addressing the marginalization of older persons through the provision of adequate support and protection for improving their quality of life. It requested the secretariat to continue its provision of technical assistance in policy and programme development to promote the well-being of older persons, especially concerning social protection and security, and the enhancement of community support for them. In particular, the Commission urged that more importance be attached to intercountry exchange of information and experience on the development of policies and programmes for strengthening inter-generational relations in the face of recent economic and social changes that had affected older persons adversely.

Equalization of opportunities: inclusion of disabled persons in the development process

225. The Commission endorsed the 107 strengthened targets for action on the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons as contained in document E/ESCAP/1176. It noted that those targets had been developed and adopted by regional meetings on the education of disabled children and youth and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons that ESCAP had convened in November 1999.

226. Furthermore, with regard to the strengthening of policies and programmes for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the mainstream development process, the Commission highlighted the importance of action to determine the scope of disability, as well as the need for continuous action to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities. It requested the secretariat to strengthen its assistance to the ESCAP membership in support of the fulfilment of the targets adopted.

227. The Commission adopted resolution 56/2 on advancing human resources development in Asia and the Pacific.

Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

228. The Commission endorsed document E/ESCAP/1177. It expressed satisfaction with the successful organization of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which had been held in Bangkok in October 1999. It reiterated its commitment towards the full implementation of the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Platform for Action, and urged the secretariat to strengthen its activities in advancing the status of women. It reaffirmed that the effective participation by women in all areas of social and economic development was essential for the attainment of national development goals and objectives.

229. The Commission noted with satisfaction that significant progress had been achieved in improving the access of women to productive resources. Major initiatives had been taken to promote the economic situation of women through various development projects and to empower them through education, health-care facilities and integrated childcare services. It recommended that target-oriented self-employment and income-generating projects should continue to be implemented for women in poverty, particularly for displaced women, widows and female heads of household.

230. Recognizing the advancement of women as a prerequisite for the alleviation of poverty, the Commission noted the efforts of member countries in undertaking poverty alleviation strategies that placed women and men as equal partners in the family and society. It observed that women should be empowered to enable them to join in a harmonious, equal and mutually beneficial partnership with men in sharing the responsibilities and benefits of development.

231. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the establishment of formal and informal social safety nets and social protection projects and programmes for the benefit of women. Many countries had introduced innovative training and skills development components into their poverty alleviation programmes to assist women.

232. The Commission observed that significant progress had been made in strengthening institutional mechanisms, the dissemination of information, including measures to collect and compile gender statistics, and reforming the legal systems to empower women. It noted that protection and respect of women's human rights, including reproductive health, had emerged as a concern in the region. Countries had adopted awareness-raising measures, provided greater legal protection for women against violence, and promoted increased participation in the decision-making process, including quotas in local governance. The Commission recommended that special attention should be paid to the girl child and women in difficult circumstances, such as female heads of household, migrant women, older women and trafficked women. It emphasized the need for regional and international cooperation and coordination in dealing with the issue of trafficking in women and children.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

233. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the programme activities that had been carried out by the Centre in 1999, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1171.

234. The Commission recommended that the Centre should continue and strengthen collaborative programmes for research and development as well as human resources development and information services with the members and associate members of ESCAP, covering a broad range of issues concerning the stabilization of upland agriculture, feed crops development, mitigation of damage caused by abnormal weather, and food security strategies.

235. The Commission expressed special concern over the continuing unstable condition of both the institutional and the programme support resources of the Centre, and urged the members and associate members of ESCAP to consider a substantial increase in funding and early and timely allocation of the funds, as well as provision of the services of experts, so as to ensure the effective implementation of programme activities at the Centre. It also requested the ESCAP secretariat to explore actively more sources of funding to stabilize the fund situation for the Centre, recognizing the importance of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tuber crops for food security in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific.

236. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions, in cash or in kind, or both, received from the governments of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

237. The Commission elected the following countries members of the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre for a three-year term: Bangladesh, France, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in addition to Indonesia as the host country.

Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

238. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1178-1180. It endorsed the report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its second session, including the recommendations therein. It expressed satisfaction with the work undertaken by the secretariat for the development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure in the region. In particular, it noted the considerable benefit that member countries had gained from studies, seminars, workshops and advisory services. It appreciated the collaborative approach taken by the secretariat in identifying opportunities to undertake activities jointly with other United Nations bodies, and regional and international organizations, wherever possible.

239. The Commission expressed deep gratitude to the governments of China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands and Republic of Korea, and to the Japan Transport Cooperation Association and the Nippon Foundation, for their generous support of activities in the field of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

240. Stressing the importance of the integrated Asian land transport infrastructure development project to the developing countries in Asia, especially the landlocked states, in facilitating their international trade and tourism, the Commission reiterated its strong support for the priority status of the ALTID project.

241. For further efficient implementation of the project, the Commission endorsed the main thrust areas as reflected in paragraphs 19 and 20 of document E/ESCAP/1179, with the main emphasis to be placed on completion of the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks covering the whole of Asia, including missing links, and operationalization/improvement of the operational efficiency of international land transport corridors, for which more emphasis should be put on the software aspects of international land transport, including special studies on non-physical barriers. One delegation noted that the primary responsibility for operationalization of the Asian Highway lay with the concerned member governments. It also endorsed the plan of action for phase IV (2000-2001) of the ALTID project, as reflected in document E/ESCAP/CTCTID(2)/2 and Corr.1, prepared for the second session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, which should also include the preparation of the joint ESCAP/ECE programme on the development of Asia-Europe transport links. It stressed the importance of early completion of the study on the Trans-Asian Railway in the corridor Northern Europe-Russian Federation-Persian Gulf, as well as the second ALTID project assessment to be carried out in 2001. It also stressed the importance of close coordination of the ALTID and UNDP Tumen River Area Development Programme.

242. The Commission recognized the importance of facilitation measures, which contributed to the expansion of trade and tourism by reducing transport costs and increasing the efficiency of movement. It stressed the need to provide assistance in the software aspects of infrastructure, such as accession to the

relevant international conventions to facilitate cross-border movement. It was emphasized that subregional agreements should be consistent with international conventions, to avoid complications in the future. In view of their important role in developing efficient international land transport, the Commission also decided to extend the validity of resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges as well as resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, with reports on their implementation to be submitted to the Commission every two years. It also felt that, in addition to the international conventions listed in resolution 48/11, the accession to and implementation by countries in Asia of international road transport conventions on the work of crews, the temporary importation of private vehicles, and the transport of dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs, as well as the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, as amended and rail transport conventions and agreements, could greatly facilitate international land transport. It was also requested that a special study be conducted to evaluate the progress in the implementation of resolution 48/11, with specific focus on the identification of major problem areas as well as suggestions for remedial measures. The Commission also noted that, as part of the process towards accession to international conventions, the movement of traffic was being facilitated through bilateral arrangements.

243. The Commission supported the recommendations of the heads of divisions responsible for transport of the United Nations regional economic commissions at their meeting held in Cairo in December 1999, stressing the need for the close and active involvement of the countries concerned in the formulation and operationalization of interregional transport links. The Commission noted the possible Asia-Europe and Asia-West Asia-Africa rail and road links as reflected in paragraph 27 of document E/ESCAP/1179 and in annexes I and II to the document, and requested the countries concerned to give their views on their appropriateness to the secretariat by 1 September 2000. The Commission stressed the importance of early completion of the formulation of the joint ESCAP/ECE programme. It noted that the second International Conference on Euro-Asian Transport would be held in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, in September 2000. It also noted the important potential role of the land transport and port system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing transport links between Asia, West Asia and Central Asia.

244. The Commission noted with interest the information provided on progress made in the development of international land transport routes at the national level, including (a) in the Islamic Republic of Iran, operationalization of the main East-West Asian Highway routes, ongoing construction of: (i) 2,300 km of 4-lane highways; (ii) the Kerman-Zahedan and Mashhad-Bafq railway lines, shortening access to Central Asia from the port of Bandar Abbas by 1,000 km; (b) in India, improved utilization of Asian Highway routes and initiatives to improve linkages with some of its neighbours, including operationalization of the Delhi-Lahore and Calcutta-Dhaka bus services; (c) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the completed railway between Wonsan and Mt Kumgang and highway construction between Pyongyang and Nampo; and (d) in Nepal, construction of an inland container depot in Birgunj, Biratnagar and Bhairahawa. In response to a request by India that the linkages of the Trans-Asian Railway through the north-eastern sector of India should be clearly described in annex I to document E/ESCAP/1179, the Commission drew attention to the recommendations of the Regional Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, held in Dhaka in May 1999, which were under consideration by concerned member countries.

245. The Commission also stressed the importance of implementing the recommendations made by (a) the expert group meeting mentioned in the previous paragraph, including the early establishment, in cooperation with UIC, of a special working group on the operationalization of the route; (b) ESCAP advisory services on operationalization of the SPECA special working group on transport and border-crossing; and (c) the Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Asia-Europe Rail Container Transport through Block-trains - Northern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, held in Bangkok in February 2000. The Commission requested that all efforts be made to complete the necessary studies and conduct the demonstration runs as soon as possible. It was also noted that a special working group for the route China-Mongolia-Kazakhstan-Russian Federation-Belarus-Poland-Germany had already been established.

246. To enhance the capacity of ESCAP to provide assistance in the field of land transport, the Commission recognized the need for the provision, as of 2002, of a regional adviser in the field of land transport to address the problems of the development of intraregional and interregional land transport, with particular reference to landlocked countries and economies in transition.

247. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Memorandum of Understanding between ESCAP and UIC was to be signed on 6 June 2000. It expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its offer to host the first meeting of the chief executive officers of the railways of ESCAP members and associate members.

248. The Commission noted that urban transport had become an area of growing concern in many countries as a result of traffic congestion, capacity constraints in public transport systems, lack of integration of land use and transportation, environmental pollution, and safety and other problems. Those problems were affecting the sustainable economic development of cities and therefore required the increased attention of member countries. The Commission recognized that sustainability should be the fundamental theme of transport policy development and could be achieved by pursuing an integrated, comprehensive participatory approach which was particularly effective in dealing with the various issues of a cross-cutting nature and controversial complex interests and opinions from diverse layers of society. It urged the secretariat to undertake studies on the status and problems of urban transport in various cities to assist in the exchange of information on available alternative approaches to address various problems and to share experience. In that context, the Commission appreciated the ongoing ESCAP/Bangkok Metropolitan Administration project on a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport, funded by the Netherlands. The experience gained from that project could be shared with other countries. The Commission urged the secretariat to undertake more interdivisional programmes in the area of urban transport.

249. The Commission stressed the importance of adequate and efficient infrastructure services and facilities to support economic and social development. It held the view that, to accelerate infrastructure development, private sector participation should be stimulated and encouraged. For that to take place, it was noted that governments needed to introduce legislative and regulatory frameworks which were conducive to private sector participation and public-private partnerships. In that respect, the Commission reiterated its support for the principle of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance and commended the work of the secretariat being undertaken in cooperation with the ECE-BOT Expert Group. The Commission also stressed the need for interdivisional cooperation within the secretariat on cross-cutting issues such as greater private sector involvement in infrastructure development, financing, operation and management.

250. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that progress on all 64 projects within phase I of the regional action programme under the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific should be evaluated with a view to providing a basis for the formulation and prioritization of activities for phase II. In order to raise the profile of ESCAP, the Commission noted that project outputs should be qualitatively analysed and actively publicized in a manner that was easy to understand. It emphasized the need to incorporate demand-driven, results-oriented and cost-effective activities in phase II of the programme. The Commission reaffirmed that high priority should be given to inland water transport in the implementation of phase II. The continuation or establishment of effective linkages between regional, subregional and national activities in the programme was also deemed necessary to ensure efficient delivery of planned outputs under the programme. It stressed the importance of involving all the concerned agencies in the formulation of phase II. It was further noted that, in keeping with recent directives concerning publications, a strict review of both quantity and quality should be undertaken before publications were issued.

251. The Commission endorsed the guidelines on the structure and content of country reports on the transport sector contained in annex II to document E/ESCAP/1180 and urged member countries to prepare and submit the reports to the secretariat so that they could be used in preparing the biennial review on transport, communications, tourism and other infrastructure development for the ministerial conference to be held in 2001.

252. In stressing the importance of the ALTID project, multimodal transport and logistics, and the integration of social, safety and environmental issues into transport, communications and infrastructure development, the Commission endorsed five theme topics for the ministerial conference: transport infrastructure and logistics; administration, restructuring and private sector participation in the transport sector; sustainable transport development; social issues in transport development; and regional and subregional cooperation in sustainable energy development.

253. The Commission requested that issues related to HIV/AIDS in the transport sector be dealt with by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and WHO, and within the social development programme of ESCAP, with the support of the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division. It was explained that, in order to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a multisectoral approach was required and that the activities of the Division were focused on increasing awareness and developing public and corporate policy in the transport sector, whereas specific interventions would be undertaken by specialized agencies. However, the Commission requested that a specific item on HIV/AIDS in the transport sector should not be included in the agenda of the ministerial conference.

254. The Commission called upon United Nations agencies, international lending agencies, relevant governments and the private sector to provide financial

and other support for the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

255. CITYNET requested the secretariat to allow different actors greater access to ESCAP TCDC funds. It recommended that some annual allocation from the TCDC funds should be made available for direct requests from actors other than the national governments. It also apprised the Commission of the regional policy seminar on transport and communications challenges for urban local governments in the twenty-first century, which was to be supported by the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division and the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division, and held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2000.

256. Noting the impact of the rapidly changing maritime environment and the increasing importance of multimodal transport and logistics in the globalization process, the Commission recommended that those issues should be given priority attention within the work programme. In that context, the Commission was pleased to learn that the Republic of Korea would provide financial and expert resources to support two new projects, one on regional shipping and port development strategies under a changing maritime environment, and the other on the commercial development of regional ports as logistics centres.

257. The Commission noted with satisfaction the ongoing support provided by the Government of Japan for land and water transport as well as tourism activities. It was also pleased to learn that the Government of France intended to continue its strong support for activities related to multimodal transport and its focus on countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion.

258. The Commission reaffirmed that tourism should continue to be accorded high priority in the programme of work of the secretariat.

259. It requested the secretariat to intensify activities to promote cooperation in tourism education and training through APETIT. Member institutes of APETIT were requested to send information on their tourism training programmes for inclusion in the APETIT web site to the Iran Tourism and Touring Organization, the focal point for information management.

260. The Commission emphasized that the Asian and Pacific region had enormous potential for developing ecotourism, and requested the secretariat to strengthen activities in that area. It suggested that ecotourism issues in the Pacific island countries should be considered for inclusion as one of the items on the agenda for the seventh session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, to be held in 2002.

261. The Commission noted that the Asian Highway had great potential for making significant contributions to trade and tourism. It welcomed the cooperation of ESCAP and UNESCO with the World Educational and Cultural Exchange Programmes of Chiang Mai University, Thailand, in pursuing the private sector initiative, "Drive for Peace".

262. The Commission requested the secretariat to organize a seminar related to the development of Buddhist tourism circuits and to undertake activities to promote beach tourism. It also requested the secretariat to strengthen activities to promote tourism development in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

263. The Commission recognized the need for universal access to transport and tourism facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly, and requested the secretariat to support such activities. In that respect, it took note of the initiative of Indonesia to organize, in cooperation with ESCAP, the Asia-Pacific Conference on Tourism for People with Disability, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in September 2000.

264. Recognizing the importance of private sector involvement in infrastructure projects and the need to tailor approaches to specific needs, the Commission noted that an exchange of experience between member countries on restructuring and privatization projects in the power sector could facilitate increased private sector involvement in that area.

265. The Commission, recalling the offer made at its fifty-fifth session by India to host the Asia-Pacific Telecommunication Standard Institute in New Delhi, noted that the Government of India was in active dialogue on that matter with ITU, the technical body concerned.

266. The Commission recognized the positive and dynamic contribution to the work of ESCAP made by Mr. M. Rahmatullah as Director of the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division and expressed its warmest appreciation of his valuable services upon his retirement.

Statistics

Emerging issues and developments in statistics

267. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1181 on emerging issues and developments in statistics. It commended the secretariat on the quality of that and the other documents prepared under the item.

268. The Commission noted with interest that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/55 of 30 July 1999, had emphasized the need to build sustainable national statistical capacity for all stages of the information process. It also took note with satisfaction that the PARIS21 Consortium

(PARtnerships In Statistics for development in the twenty-first century), formed by major bilateral and multilateral donors in the field of statistics, had recognized that statistical capacity must be strengthened in developing countries.

269. It supported those developments and recalled that in order to introduce and implement policies and programmes effectively, governments needed constantly to improve their statistical services, institutionalize the collection and dissemination of the data required, and promote analyses and research. Close cooperation among regional and international organizations in providing the developing countries in the region with technical assistance would strengthen and consolidate the capability of national statistical agencies.

270. The Commission recognized that the statistical activities of the secretariat, in close cooperation with member countries, had assisted significantly in strengthening the statistical capabilities of the countries in the region. It suggested that the existing advisory services and cooperation should be strengthened in the areas identified by the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics.

271. The Commission appreciated the work of the "city groups" set up under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission as vehicles for speeding up the development of international statistical standards and methodologies, and encouraged the active participation of its members in such groups. It noted with satisfaction that countries already participating in existing city groups planned to continue to do so.

272. The Commission recognized the importance of statistics and indicators as a means of measuring progress towards development goals. It was informed that technical and financial support was required by some countries to improve development indicators in order to meet national and international needs. It noted with interest the methodological work being done by India on the computation of human development and gender development indices.

273. The Commission noted that the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System were in line with the objectives of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and were desired targets for national statistical services. While several countries in the region had subscribed to them, others were making in-depth studies to develop programmes to meet SDDS/GDDS requirements. The Commission noted that there was scope for improvement in various respects in meeting those requirements, and that technical assistance from IMF and other agencies would be welcome in that regard. It felt that ESCAP should play a role in the implementation of SDDS and GDDS in the region. It also suggested that national statistical agencies should be provided with additional resources to enable them to respond to SDDS/GDDS requirements, especially where adherence to the standards might otherwise distort statistical priorities.

274. The Commission noted the need for quality assurance of statistical products, especially in the era of globalization. It endorsed the suggestion of the Working Group of Statistical Experts that a cell might be established within national statistical offices to monitor the quality aspects of data, and urged governments of the region to allocate resources for that purpose.

275. The Commission recognized that a well-designed mechanism for exchanging reliable statistical data was a key element in the international financial and economic monitoring and surveillance system. It agreed that the indicators measuring the state of the financial market and the direction of capital flows needed to be not only comparable among the countries but also compatible with other national economic indicators. The Commission also recognized that the utilization of modern information technology in the processing of data would not only reduce costs but also facilitate rapid decision-making in the event of unforeseen market fluctuations.

276. The Commission noted the growing policy interest in and demand for data on electronic commerce, since goods and services traded through the Internet were increasing rapidly in terms of value and volume. It recognized the urgent need to develop a sound conceptual and methodological framework for the measurement of electronic commerce. In that regard, it was felt that the sharing of experience among countries of the region, as well as the discussion of the issue in international statistical forums, would be highly beneficial, especially for those countries which had not yet initiated such measurement programmes. The Commission recognized the advantages of electronic commerce for business both within and between developing economies, and viewed electronic data interchange as a potent tool capable of improving the conduct of business.

277. The Commission felt that ESCAP should enhance its activities in promoting cooperation among agencies and specialized training in measuring electronic commerce, as well as in the general utilization of information technologies. It endorsed the suggestion of the Working Group of Statistical Experts that a discussion group on the measurement of electronic commerce should be formed, which would facilitate the sharing of practical experience and the establishment of uniform measurement tools.

278. The Commission recognized the efforts of the countries to implement the 1993 SNA in a phased manner. It noted the current emphasis on training on concepts and practices, data assessment and the compilation of integrated economic accounts, and welcomed the technical and financial assistance of

ESCAP and other donor agencies in the implementation of the 1993 SNA. The Commission suggested that the focus of technical assistance should be on in-depth training and workshops or seminars at the regional and the international levels on various aspects of the 1993 SNA; technical advisory or consultancy services; the preparation of handbooks or manuals on important topics; and the provision of hardware and software facilities in support of the compilation of national accounts.

279. The Commission noted the concern expressed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at the slow progress of most developing countries in implementing the 1993 SNA. It was, however, encouraged to learn of the concerted efforts of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to improve national accounts, for example through the creation of electronic discussion groups on selected topics concerning the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

280. The Commission also recognized the importance of international economic and social classifications, and took note of the efforts of countries to adopt revisions to international standard classification systems. In that regard, the role of cooperation within the ESCAP region in order to promote the exchange of experience was seen as useful.

281. The Commission noted that countries in the region were at various stages of conducting the 2000 round of population and housing censuses. It was informed that modern technology had been used to speed up various census processes, such as data capture, processing and dissemination, although it acknowledged that new technologies had to be studied carefully in terms of their feasibility and applicability. The Commission emphasized the need for continued and additional assistance in the census field from donor agencies, especially through advisory services. It also highlighted the role of technical cooperation among the countries, in terms of sharing practical experiences. The Commission noted the need of some countries for training in the post-enumeration phases of the census, such as in data analysis and utilization, and in electronic data communication and dissemination. It also felt that the secretariat should organize technical meetings and other regional activities in the field of demographic statistics.

282. The Commission recognized that the collection, dissemination and utilization of improved statistics on women would heighten their visibility in the development planning process. It noted with satisfaction the ongoing work in several countries in the area of gender statistics, such as in creating databases and updating statistical publications on women and men. It was suggested that ESCAP should continue to play a coordinating role in gender statistics in the region, and promote exchange of experience among member countries. The Commission noted the need for technical and financial assistance in collecting data on the contribution of women to the national economy, especially in the informal sector, through time-use and other surveys. Since some countries had good experience in conducting national or large-scale time-use surveys, the Commission recommended that such experience should be shared among countries in the region.

283. The Commission welcomed the efforts to improve poverty statistics made by some countries. It recognized that the multidimensional nature of the poverty phenomenon required active collaboration between statisticians and all other related disciplines concerned with poverty alleviation. It also noted that appropriate poverty-related indicators would provide a basis for policies and programmes designed to mitigate the social consequences of the economic crisis.

284. The Commission noted that while countries in the region were in agreement on the conceptual definition of poverty as a state of marginalization, poverty measurement among the countries differed in terms of statistical methodology and survey design. It was suggested that the ESCAP Committee on Statistics should contribute to establishing standards on urban and rural poverty measures. The Commission expressed appreciation of the work performed by the Expert Group on Poverty Statistics (the Rio Group) and endorsed its objectives and future work plan. It also commended the efforts being made in the field of poverty statistics by ESCAP, the World Bank and ADB.

285. The Commission noted that the need for environment statistics and environmental accounting in both monetary and physical terms was increasing among the countries of the ESCAP region. It observed with interest that some countries had already benefited from a project on the institutional strengthening and collection of environment statistics funded by ADB. The Commission noted with appreciation the suggestion of India that a training programme on environment statistics should be organized in collaboration with the secretariat, in order to share experiences with other developing countries in the region. It agreed that the ongoing secretariat activities in that field were very timely and appropriate, and requested ESCAP to play an active coordinating role in improving environment statistics in the region.

286. In expressing its appreciation of the statistical activities undertaken by the secretariat, the Commission endorsed the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001. It also agreed with the recommendation of the Working Group of Statistical Experts that five topics, the 1993 SNA, poverty statistics, gender statistics, statistics on the informal sector, and environment statistics, should constitute the

priority programme areas for the biennium. It was suggested that the government finance classification recently revised by IMF should also be included as a priority.

287. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fifty-fifth session, the secretariat had received generous extrabudgetary assistance which had contributed enormously to the implementation of operational activities under the statistics subprogramme. Bilateral donors included the governments of the Netherlands and of Sweden, while India and the Philippines had provided host facilities for meetings. Multilateral assistance had been provided by UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, ADB and OECD.

Progress achieved and difficulties encountered in addressing the Y2K problem

288. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1183 on progress achieved and difficulties encountered in addressing the Y2K problem, describing the response of the secretariat and of the countries in the region to Commission resolution 55/3 of 28 April 1999 on strengthening the cooperation and support of nations in the Asian and Pacific region in addressing the year 2000 problem.

289. The Commission was relieved to note that no major Y2K failures had been encountered in the region and that disturbances to the normal conduct of business had been minimal. It recognized that the awareness-creation efforts through various international, regional and national awareness programmes, including those of ESCAP and SIAP, had effectively boosted the pace of remediation towards the end of 1999.

290. The Commission expressed appreciation to the secretariat for its attempts to raise funds for the activities called for in resolution 55/3 and for the follow-up survey that it had conducted among the regional member and associate member governments. It regretted that the response rate had remained too low to give a comprehensive picture of the expenditure and efforts that the region had made in resolving the problem. The survey results had given an indication, however, that member and associate member governments had spent several billion dollars in preventing failures and rectifying the problem.

291. The Commission concluded that, despite the costs involved, the fight against the Y2K problem had provided several useful lessons in the management of critical information and information technology resources. In the light of the fact that the transition to the new century had been much smoother than expected, and of the reduced interest in the problem, it decided that the second follow-up report requested in the resolution, which was to have been submitted to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session in 2001, had become unnecessary.

Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

292. The Commission expressed appreciation of document E/ESCAP/1182, containing the report on SIAP. In doing so, it supported the work programme of SIAP for the current year, 2000-2001, as well as for the long term, 2000-2005.

293. The Commission commended SIAP on the implementation in recent years of new strategies and initiatives. In that regard, it noted the wide range of topics that SIAP had covered in its training activities in the past year, through both its Tokyo-based courses and its outreach programme. The Commission welcomed the restructured content and organization of the regular Tokyo-based courses, including the introduction of a comprehensive course evaluation framework and a survey that had been conducted in May 1999 to obtain feedback on the training needs of national statistical offices in the ESCAP region.

294. Furthermore, the SIAP outreach programme had involved enhanced collaboration with national statistical offices and international organizations, particularly in the hosting of short training courses on specialized topics. The contribution of the national statistical offices in the ESCAP region had been substantial. National statistical offices, such as those of India and the Republic of Korea, had contributed training facilities and the coverage of all local expenses for participants and resource persons. In some instances, those of Australia, India and New Zealand had contributed technical expertise for the conduct of training courses and workshops on specific topics, such as disability statistics and sampling design.

295. In view of the significance of the SIAP outreach programme in addressing emerging training needs in specialized areas, the Commission urged ESCAP members and associate members to support the further implementation of the programme through diverse modes of collaboration. The Republic of Korea offered to co-organize a training course on data management and dissemination in Taejon in 2000.

296. The Commission was informed that, in the implementation of the SIAP work programme, priority was accorded to the training needs of the least developed and landlocked countries, the island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. It requested SIAP to expand the opportunities in its training programme so that more participants could benefit from its training activities. Furthermore, it requested SIAP to strengthen training in the use of information technology for data capturing, processing and validation, the generation and dissemination of statistics, and for data analysis.

297. The Commission discussed financial matters relating to the Institute, including cash contributions by ESCAP members and associate members. It expressed

gratitude to the Government of Japan, the host of the Institute, for its continuous strong support. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the expressed intent of the Government of Japan to make a larger cash contribution (US$ 1,736,700), which exceeded the contribution of the previous year, as well as an in-kind contribution that was equivalent to US$ 1,991,400. In addition, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the government had also offered 63 fellowships for participants to attend the Tokyo-based courses for the period 2000-2001. The Commission welcomed the offer of a cash contribution of US$ 15,000 by the Government of India.

298. The Commission noted that over 20 ESCAP members and associate members had contributed financial support to SIAP, with the Federated States of Micronesia contributing for the first time. Nevertheless, the overall cash contribution had declined in the past two years. In order to ensure the smooth functioning of SIAP and provide adequate training to meet the increasing needs of the ESCAP region, the Government of Japan urged other ESCAP members and associate members to join in extending adequate funding support to the Institute. Those that had not yet paid pledged contributions were urged to do so at an early date. Furthermore, those whose contributions did not meet the minimum amounts indicated in the Commission's guidelines for that purpose were urged to increase their contributions, particularly if they had benefited from SIAP assistance.

299. The Commission thanked the members of the first Governing Board of SIAP whose five-year term of office would expire at the end of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission. In that regard, several delegations expressed interest in being elected or re-elected to the next Governing Board.

300. The Commission elected the following countries members of the Governing Board of SIAP for the next five-year term, 2000-2005, along with Japan, the host government: Australia, China, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

301. The Commission was informed of a special seminar that SIAP and the Management Coordination Agency, the cooperating agency of SIAP in the Government of Japan, would organize in Tokyo on 28 August 2000 for heads of national statistical offices, as part of the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of SIAP.

302. The Commission placed on record its gratitude to the Government of Japan for its generous contribution to SIAP, both in cash and in kind, as well as for its strong support and the provision of fellowships for the Institute. In addition, it expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the provision of the new office premises of SIAP, which were more spacious and well-equipped with modern training facilities, including a new computer system.

303. Furthermore, the Commission expressed gratitude to those ESCAP members and associate members that had made contributions to SIAP, including many generous cash and in-kind contributions to support the Institute's regional training activities, UNDP for continued programme support, as well as FAO, WHO and the World Bank for their collaboration with SIAP.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

304. The Commission had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its sixth session (E/ESCAP/1184). It strongly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report with respect to the two substantive agenda items, namely, transport and tourism issues in Pacific island countries, and children's welfare issues in Pacific island countries, and requested that the programme of work of the Commission should be suitably adjusted, if necessary, to address those issues.

305. The Commission recognized that transport and tourism and children's welfare issues were important challenges faced by Pacific island countries. As many least developed and landlocked countries experienced similar challenges in terms of high transport costs and the development of tourism, the Commission recommended that ESCAP activities in those areas should be extended to least developed and landlocked countries.

306. The Commission noted with appreciation the various activities implemented by the ESCAP secretariat and ESCAP/POC for the benefit of Pacific island countries, and requested that such activities be continued in the future.

307. The Commission acknowledged the usefulness of the technical assistance provided for Pacific island countries by ESCAP, with the cooperation of some member governments under their national TCDC programmes. It expressed appreciation to those countries for their assistance and urged other countries to provide similar assistance. It also expressed appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for organizing those activities.

308. The Commission recognized that ESCAP/POC had been instrumental in assisting Pacific island countries in their development efforts, and urged the secretariat to strengthen the Centre with adequate resources. The specific areas identified to strengthen ESCAP/POC included development planning, economic policy, social development and planning, shipping and transport, physical planning and water

supply, small business development, trade policy, and environmental and sustainable development.

309. The Commission recognized the positive contribution made by Mr. Siwatibau, Head of ESCAP/POC, in raising the profile of the Centre and, on his retirement, expressed its warmest appreciation of his services.

310. The Commission commended the ESCAP secretariat for initiating the work on the review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in preparation for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Brussels from 13 to 20 May 2001. It expressed strong support to ESCAP for convening the high-level regional meeting later in 2000 in collaboration with UNCTAD, to review the implementation of the Programme of Action and to formulate recommendations to address common future challenges facing the least developed countries in the Asian and Pacific region. The Commission welcomed the invitation to hold the high-level meeting in Bangladesh in late 2000. To ensure timely preparation by countries for the Conference in May 2001, the Commission recommended that the fifth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries should be held in the early part of the first quarter of 2001.

311. The Commission suggested that ecotourism development issues in the Pacific island countries should be considered for inclusion as one of the agenda items of the seventh session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. That would assist those countries in the process of policy formulation and in their preparation for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10") to be held in 2002.

312. The Commission noted with appreciation the offers by UNCTAD and WTO to collaborate with ESCAP in implementing activities for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and Pacific island countries, including activities related to regional preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries.

313. The Commission also expressed appreciation to donor countries and international organizations for their support for activities implemented by ESCAP for the benefit of least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries.

Programme planning

Draft medium-term plan of ESCAP for the period 2002-2005

314. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1185/Rev.1 on the draft medium-term plan of ESCAP for the period 2002-2005 in respect of programme 15, Economic and social development for Asia and the Pacific.

315. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the proposed four-year plan, which had been drawn up on the basis of mandates established by the Commission, had a special focus on building the capacity in the region to take advantage of the challenges and opportunities presented by continuing globalization and liberalization and the developments in information technology. The proposed plan had been considered and revised through a series of reviews undertaken by the legislative bodies subsidiary to the Commission and ACPR, as well as the Secretariat Steering Committee on Reform and Management at United Nations Headquarters. The secretariat had circulated the initial draft plan to 22 member and associate member governments that were usually not represented at ACPR, so that the concerns and recommendations of those governments could also be reflected. The Commission was urged to express its views on the draft plan prior to the fortieth session of CPC, the global intergovernmental body that would consider the medium-term plan proposals of the entire United Nations Secretariat, including those of ESCAP, in mid-June 2000.

316. The Commission discussed the draft medium-term plan, which it considered substantive and comprehensive, and a reflection of Commission and global mandates, and endorsed it with some amendments. It strongly recommended that, to lay a solid foundation for the long-term development of the region, ESCAP should make continuous efforts towards capacity-building in the region and be more responsive to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and the knowledge-based economy. It welcomed the new format, which included expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each subprogramme and was expected to facilitate the assessment of the programme upon completion of the plan period. In that connection, the Commission strongly recommended that, to ensure consistency, the indicators of achievement for subprogrammes 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 should also include an evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of ESCAP meetings, training courses, advisory services and publications by member and associate member governments. The Commission directed the secretariat to define more clearly the expected accomplishments and performance indicators when formulating programme budgets for the period 2002-2005.

317. The Commission noted with satisfaction the overall objective of the plan to promote the economic and social development of members and associate members in Asia and the Pacific and the attention given to accelerating the integration of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the economies in transition. It endorsed the

strategy under subprogramme 2, Development research and policy analysis, of concentrating on accelerating the recovery from the economic and financial crisis and preventing similar occurrences in the future. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue analytical work on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the region, in close consultation with international and financial institutions, in order to respond in a timely way to new challenges arising from globalization. Further study was needed on possible regional mechanisms for the exchange of information and early warning systems in relation to the financial and economic situation in the countries of the region, with a focus on crisis prevention and reduction of the vulnerability of countries to economic and financial turmoil.

318. The Commission held the view that under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, the strategy of strengthening institutional capacity and the human resources capability of developing countries, as set out in paragraph 15.8 of the proposed medium-term plan, should take into account the challenges and opportunities emerging not only from the globalizing trade and investment environment but also from developments in information technology. Similarly, the strategy set out in paragraph 15.13 (b) under subprogramme 2, Development research and policy analysis, should reflect the challenges arising from developments in information technology. In that connection, the Commission recalled the deliberations at its fifty-fifth session on the theme topic study entitled "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: information technology, globalization, economic security and development". As the Economic and Social Council would address the theme "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy" at its high-level segment to be held in July 2000, and as the Regional Round Table on Information Technology and Development, hosted by the Government of India, would be held prior to the session of the Council, the Commission held the view that sufficient foundation should be established for developing an adequate programme focused on information technology.

319. The Commission proposed that under subprogramme 3, Social development, advisory services should be strengthened in the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, which had been endorsed by the Commission in 1995. It urged that greater focus be placed on the disability sector with specific targets relating to the prevention of disabilities and providing incentives to the private sector to employ vulnerable sections of society so as to promote the objectives of the World Summit for Social Development, which had been held in Copenhagen in 1995.

320. With regard to the strategy set out in paragraph 15.26 (a) under subprogramme 5, Environment and natural resources development, the Commission noted the need to emphasize the link to the outcomes of the 10-year review of Agenda 21 ("Rio+10"), scheduled to take place in 2002. Similarly, it was noted that, in view of their relevance to the ESCAP region, the recommendations arising from the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ("Cairo+5"), which had been held in 1999, should be duly reflected under subprogramme 4, Population and rural and urban development.

321. With regard to the strategy on infrastructure development, the Commission noted the importance of connecting Asia and Europe, for which ESCAP could play a key role by bridging the missing links through the implementation of the ALTID project.

322. The Executive Secretary urged the member governments of the Commission which were also members of CPC to liaise closely with their representatives attending the fortieth session of CPC in New York so that the views expressed at the current session of the Commission would also be communicated directly by the representatives to CPC, which was responsible for reviewing the United Nations proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

Implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999

323. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1186 and Corr.1.

324. It commended the analysis in section I of the document on the overview of achievements in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999.

325. The Commission expressed general satisfaction with the implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999, which had been appropriately modified to deal with the after-effects of the financial and economic crisis in mid-1997 on the economic and social development in the region. The outputs and level of programme implementation were considered useful and satisfactory despite the reduced level of resources and the average vacancy rate of 15 per cent at the Professional and higher categories in the programme areas during the period under review. While recognizing the subsequent improvements in filling the vacancies, the Commission requested the secretariat to enhance efforts to further reduce its vacancy rate, particularly in the programme areas and heavily understaffed divisions, and to introduce adequate arrangements for succession with a view to

strengthening the implementation capacity of the secretariat.

326. With regard to the low participation in the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, the Commission proposed that an analysis be made jointly by member governments and the secretariat to identify means to enhance the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee and the organization of its sessions, in connection with the in-depth review of the ESCAP conference structure mandated by the Commission to take place no later than at its fifty-eighth session.

327. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the focus of efforts was being shifted from the production of publications to increasing the provision of group training activities. The dissemination of data and information through the ESCAP web sites had increased, and greater importance was being placed on promoting TCDC in carrying out operational activities. Noting that more than 50 planned publications had not been issued by the end of the biennium, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake more prudent planning, management and implementation of the programmed activities, including further streamlining of its publications programme. In that connection, the Commission urged the full implementation of the guidelines on ESCAP publications activities. At the same time, it encouraged the greater use of ESCAP web sites for more timely and cost-effective dissemination of data and information. The suggestion was made that ESCAP web sites should be hyperlinked with all related sites of other United Nations bodies, so that integrated and synergized information would be available to members and associate members.

328. The Commission welcomed the support rendered by the secretariat to assist subregional groupings and to strengthen the cooperation mechanisms with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies at the regional level.

329. With regard to section II of the document, it was noted that the analysis of programme implementation by each subprogramme should be more consistent. It was stressed that the emphasis should be placed on the assessment of outputs and achievements rather than on the description of outputs. For example, the reporting should be modified to reflect the following: (a) a comparison of achievements with the objectives set at the start of the biennium; (b) indicators or benchmarks to measure performance; (c) comments and requests by member governments at legislative and other intergovernmental meetings on the specific content to be included in the report and on programmes and activities; (d) reviews by the international and local press; (e) feedback from member governments on the usefulness and quality of ESCAP activities; (f) the level of financial support available; and (g) the results of coordination with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations active in the region.

330. The Commission commenced the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'98), held in Almaty, which had yielded initial sales of US$ 3.1 million. It noted that the publications on how to do business with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were the first published in English by a regional commission and had been issued as United Nations sales publications.

331. The Commission noted with appreciation the close cooperation between the secretariat and the Government of China in organizing a series of extrabudgetary projects, including the International Symposium and Exhibition on Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology and Industrialization, held in Yantai, the Regional Seminar on Support and Protection of Older Persons as Consumers, held in Shanghai, and the Training Workshop on Information Technology for Population Information Professionals, held in Beijing. It also noted with appreciation the willingness of the Government of China to continue its cooperation in the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

332. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's work in organizing the training workshops on WTO agreements, and recommended that similar training workshops should be organized in the future, preferably at the national level.

333. It noted the request of the Government of Pakistan for support from ESCAP in efforts to establish an Asia-Pacific centre for information and communications technology.

334. While the level of extrabudgetary funding had been declining, the Commission took note of the efforts by the secretariat, which included the promotion of TCDC as well as third-country training programmes supported by the governments of Malaysia and Singapore. The Commission welcomed the impending signing of the strategic compact between UNDP and the regional commissions towards strengthening cooperation between them. In that connection, it urged joint efforts by member governments and the secretariat to secure funding from UNDP for future ESCAP projects.

335. The Commission was informed that 10 out of 33 publications proposed for postponement from the biennium 1998-1999 to the current biennium had been completed. It expressed regret that 20 publications had been deleted for various reasons.

Proposed programme changes, 2000-2001

336. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1187 on proposed programme changes, 2000-2001, and information paper ESCAP(LVI)/INF.2

on group training activities for the biennium 2000-2001.

337. The Commission noted that the programme of work for 2000-2001 was the first programme formulated on the basis of the cumulative reform efforts of ESCAP within the framework of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It also noted that the proposed programme changes had taken into account the decisions of the legislative bodies and other relevant meetings since the programme of work had been prepared in 1998 and adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session in 1999. The proposed additions, deletions and modifications had also arisen from a re-examination of activities to integrate better the respective subprogramme components, such as those in subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation.

338. The Commission noted the request of the Government of India that ESCAP should include in its future programme of work activities to develop the capacity of developing countries in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic commerce, information technology, the promotion of new industrial complementarities among the members of SAARC and ASEAN, and wider sharing of experience among developing countries on policies to enhance FDI. The request also included activities related to the economic impact of tourism, investment in beach tourism, the development of Buddhist circuits in the members of BIMST-EC, networking and advocacy to promote the goal of extending microcredit to 100 million poor by 2005, the promotion of microcredit capital funds, and training programmes and the upgrading of skills in slum improvement and development work.

339. The Commission endorsed the programme changes contained in document E/ESCAP/1187.

Tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2000–March 2001

340. The Commission approved the tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes for the period April 2000–March 2001 as contained in document E/ESCAP/1188, with the inclusion, at the request of the Russian Federation, of a subregional seminar on hazardous wastes and their transboundary movement to be held in Omsk, Russian Federation, from 27 to 30 June 2000, and funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

341. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1189 and Corr.1 and information paper ESCAP(LVI)/INF.3.

342. The Commission commended the initiatives of the secretariat and the efforts made which had resulted in the steady increase in TCDC promotional and operational activities and in the number of beneficiaries over the years, with special emphasis on the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. The existing ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund had been utilized in the cooperation arrangements with the governments of Malaysia and Singapore for the four third-country training programmes held in 1999. The Commission also noted that, in cooperation with the Government of China, ESCAP had conducted a workshop on strengthening TCDC national focal points for selected developing countries and countries with economies in transition. A study visit had also been organized by the secretariat in Indonesia, jointly with the Indonesian TCDC national focal point, within the framework of the 1997 agreement between ESCAP and the Government of Indonesia. The Commission reaffirmed its conviction that TCDC activities were indispensable for strengthening national, regional and collective self-reliance.

343. The Commission welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to mobilize the requisite resources for organizing the sensitization workshop in China in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of experience of its members and associate members on TCDC matters with the more advanced developing countries. It urged that such workshops be organized on an annual basis, in recognition of the need to strengthen commitment on a TCDC policy framework at the national level and the importance of the TCDC national focal points in that regard.

344. With the prevailing resource constraints, the Commission stressed the importance of beneficiary members and associate members responding positively to the TCDC initiatives of the secretariat by providing the secretariat promptly with the necessary information to enable it to undertake the matching of their needs through TCDC activities. Beneficiaries should also be proactive and should take complementary measures to enhance their participation in and to maximize the benefits from those activities. In that regard, continuing priority should be accorded to the needs and priorities of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. The Commission called upon the secretariat to consider the possibility of assisting the least developed countries in implementing appropriate micro and small pilot projects within the framework of TCDC.

345. The Commission encouraged members and associate members to increase their extrabudgetary contributions to ESCAP TCDC and technical cooperation activities. On the other hand, the secretariat should make full efforts to mobilize all

means of resources to secure the smooth implementation of ESCAP projects.

346. In addressing the specific problems and issues relevant to the island developing countries, the Commission called on the secretariat to organize a tourism course in 2000, similar to the one on tourism management and development which had been held in Singapore in 1999. Other courses of special interest to the Pacific island developing countries included areas relating to the promotion of trade and foreign investment. In realizing the usefulness of the third-country training courses in Malaysia and Singapore, the Commission urged that similar courses continue to be conducted, especially in areas that were pertinent to the needs and requirements of the Pacific island developing countries. In that regard, it welcomed the efforts by the Government of Samoa to allocate a portion of its UNDP resources to supplement the secretariat's efforts in facilitating its participation in ESCAP TCDC activities. Recognizing the importance of TCDC in promoting human resources development and capacity-building, the Commission urged other least developed countries and island developing countries to make similar arrangements, as the benefits from TCDC far outweighed the expenditure.

347. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Government of China had consistently supported the TCDC activities implemented by the secretariat. It had continued to contribute to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and had hosted a series of TCDC activities, including sensitization workshops, which had yielded excellent results, as evident from the increased participation in TCDC activities by the beneficiary countries and from their requests that such TCDC workshops be conducted annually.

348. The Commission also appreciated the contributions of the governments of Malaysia and Singapore in sharing their experience with other developing countries under the third-country training programme cooperation arrangement. It was pleased to note that activities under the cooperation arrangement with Malaysia had entered the third year since its inception. ESCAP had been able to organize three training courses in Malaysia for the least developed and island developing countries.

349. Since the establishment in 1992 of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, under which various technical assistance activities had been consolidated, over 11,000 participants from more than 130 developing countries had been trained, including those from the region. In addition to the Singapore-ESCAP third-country training programme, Singapore had, to date, signed 22 memoranda of understanding with other partners to offer training for developing countries. With regard to the Singapore-ESCAP programme, the Commission was pleased to note that five training courses had been organized since the signing of the memorandum of understanding in 1997, and had provided training for a total of 69 officials from the members and associate members of ESCAP. A training course on tourism management and development had been organized in Singapore in 1999 for the island developing countries.

350. The Commission further appreciated the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Korea in sharing its development experience with other countries in the region, and promoting TCDC activities through the human resources exchange programmes provided by the Korea International Cooperation Agency. The programmes offered included higher academic degree courses for researchers from developing countries, including those from the region. In 2000, the Agency intended to invite 1,300 trainees from 24 countries, and send 24 experts to 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific under the programme. The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, in cooperation with ESCAP, would organize a workshop on a mechanism for strengthening the technology incubation system for small and medium-sized enterprises in Asia and the Pacific, in August 2000, with a view to enhancing the capacity of the developing countries in technology incubation.

351. The representative of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community offered its expert services in the field of the coconut industry to ESCAP members and associate members within the TCDC framework. He reaffirmed APCC support for the TCDC activities of ESCAP in such areas as the transfer of technology from the Asian to the Pacific countries in coconut agriculture, and the processing and marketing of coconut products.

352. The Commission expressed appreciation to the governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for providing extrabudgetary resources to the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, which had enabled the secretariat to promote TCDC operational activities in the region. The cooperation arrangements of ESCAP with the governments of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, under their respective training programmes, were fully acknowledged. The Commission looked forward to the continued efforts of the secretariat, in cooperation with those countries, in the organization of similar training activities in the future, and in the conduct of TCDC workshops and in-country consultations to enhance benefits especially for the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition.

353. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical cooperation activities in 1999 had amounted to US$ 15.9 million, representing a decrease of about US$ 500,000 over the previous year's amount of

US$ 16.4 million. Of the 1999 amount, US$ 9.5 million, or 59.8 per cent, had been received from bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, US$ 6.02 million from sources within the United Nations system, and US$ 375,000, or 2.3 per cent, from other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission noted with concern the declining level of resources.

354. Among the bilateral donor and the contributing participating developing countries, Japan remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, followed by Germany and the Netherlands. Other donors included Australia, France, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The contributions from those eight donor countries had amounted to US$ 7.4 million, representing nearly 78 per cent of the total bilateral assistance in 1999. Twenty-three developing members and associate members had also contributed to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme, the largest being the Republic of Korea, followed by China.

355. The generous contributions of bilateral donors and developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 71 technical assistance projects under its programme of work, with a financial outlay of about US$ 6 million. The remaining amount of US$ 3.5 million had been allotted to institutional and programme support to the three regional institutions of ESCAP, APCTT, the CGPRT Centre, and SIAP, as well as the special regional project on RNAEM, and for the Pacific Trust Fund and ESCAP/POC.

356. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided about 285 work-months of services by experts recruited on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1999, which had been very valuable to the ESCAP technical cooperation programme.

357. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 35, 36 and 38 of document E/ESCAP/1189. Those suggestions included (a) maintaining and, where possible, increasing the level of extrabudgetary contributions by all donors, both developed countries and developing countries and areas, and other cooperation partners, for the implementation of technical cooperation activities under the ESCAP programme of work; (b) all traditional bilateral donors earmarking some funds under their respective annual funding programmes for the conduct of ad hoc ex-post-facto impact evaluation of selected technical cooperation projects implemented under their respective funding programmes; and (c) reiterating the Commission's previous appeal to participating members and associate members to consider increasing the level of minimum contributions to US$ 2,000 by the least developed countries and US$ 30,000 by the other developing countries towards the institutional costs of the three regional institutions.

358. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries, developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He sought the Commission's recommendations and decisions on suggested and other measures to enable the secretariat to cope with the constraints that it was facing. He emphasized that enhanced contributions from donors as well as members and associate members were essential for the implementation of the large number of activities within the approved programme of work.

359. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged by members and associate members for 2000.

360. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that her government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP. In addition, it would contribute US$ 10,000 to APDC.

361. *Cambodia*. The representative of Cambodia announced that his government would contribute US$ 2,000 as institutional and programme support for the implementation of technical cooperation activities under the ESCAP programme of work.

362. *China*. The representative of China announced that his government would make the following contributions to the ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects: Y 1,000,000 and US$ 190,000 (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund, US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund and US$ 40,000 for SIAP). The contribution in local currency represented an increase of Y 250,000, or about 33 per cent, over the 1999 level of local currency contributions. In addition, China would continue to make contributions in United States dollars to the relevant subsidiary institutions of ESCAP. The representative of China also called upon the relevant international organizations and agencies and the developed members of ESCAP to provide extrabudgetary funds for the implementation of ESCAP technical cooperation activities. ESCAP should further exert its efforts in exploring more sources of funding for its technical cooperation activities and in increasing the cost-effectiveness of such activities.

363. *France*. The representative of France informed the Commission that his government would continue its support to and cooperation with ESCAP in 2000 at the same level as in 1999. Currently, it was providing four experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis and the funding of technical cooperation activities to be undertaken by them: two agro-economists at the CGPRT Centre, one multimodal transport expert in the

ESCAP secretariat, and one expert in sectoral planning and private sector development at ESCAP/PDC. His government had been contributing funds to the European Union to assist countries in the Asian and Pacific region. He suggested that ESCAP should continue its current dialogues and cooperation with the European Union in implementing its technical cooperation activities.

363. *Germany*. The representative of Germany informed the Commission that, in 2000, Germany would provide DM 2 million to extend the project providing an adviser on transport systems. The aim of the project was to advise ESCAP member States on their transport policies, with emphasis on minimizing environmental pollution. For 2001, a total sum of DM 8 million had been earmarked for ESCAP projects in the environment and transport sectors, environmental and quality standards for small and medium-sized industries, and technology transfers.

365. *Hong Kong, China*. The representative of Hong Kong, China announced that her government would contribute US$ 30,000 to SIAP and US$ 17,000 to the Typhoon Committee (US$ 12,000 as operational support and US$ 5,000 as programme support). In addition, her government would make an in-kind contribution equivalent to US$ 5,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

366. *India*. The representative of India announced that her government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	100,000 (in national currency)
(b)	CGPRT Centre	20,000
(c)	SIAP	25,000
(d)	RNAEM	15,000

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the nodal point for APCTT, would consider providing expert services on a non-reimbursable loan basis to APCTT. In addition, India would provide US$ 132,000 to APDC for the years 1998-1999.

367. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia announced that his government would make the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 9,000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 216,000,000
(c)	SIAP	US$ 30,000

In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC and US$ 40,000 to CCOP.

368. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his government would increase its contributions to ESCAP to US$ 60,000 for 2000, as follows:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	20,000
(b)	APCTT	5,000
(c)	SIAP	10,000
(d)	RNAEM	25,000

369. *Japan*. The representative of Japan announced that his government would make the following contributions:

		US$
(a)	Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	1,525,088
(b)	CGPRT Centre project funding	225,525
(c)	SIAP	1,746,781 and ¥ 250,000,000 (equivalent to approximately US$ 1,991,400)
(d)	APDC	134,000

Japan would continue to provide expert services through JICA to ESCAP on a non-reimbursable loan basis, in the areas of energy, women in development, marine transport, land transport, tourism and environment. In addition, an expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis in the area of trade and investment information would be provided in 2000. As Japan attached the utmost importance to receiving feedback from the beneficiary countries, and to the impact assessment and achievements of the extrabudgetary-funded projects implemented by ESCAP, it would try to secure an additional budget for the evaluation component prior to the completion of extrabudgetary projects funded by Japan.

370. *Macao, China*. The representative of Macao, China announced that his government would contribute US$ 12,000 to SIAP and US$ 8,000 to APDC.

371. *Malaysia*. The representative of Malaysia announced that the intended contributions of Malaysia for 2000 would remain the same as for 1999.

372. *Mongolia*. The representative of Mongolia announced that his government would contribute US$ 2,000 for technical cooperation activities under the programme of work of ESCAP in 2000.

373. *Myanmar*. The representative of Myanmar announced the following intended contributions for 2000:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	3 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c)	SIAP	1 000

374. *Nepal*. The representative of Nepal announced that, despite the fact that Nepal was a least developed country, his government would increase its intended contributions to US$ 11,500 in 2000, as follows:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	3 000
(b)	APCTT	1 500
(c)	CGPRT Centre	500
(d)	SIAP	1 000

In addition, his government would contribute US$ 5,500 to APDC.

375. *Netherlands*. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Commission that the internal approval procedures of extrabudgetary contributions had not been completed. The level of extrabudgetary contributions to ESCAP for 2000 would be communicated to the secretariat shortly.

376. *Pakistan*. The representative of Pakistan announced that his government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP and US$ 5,000 to APDC in 2000.

377. *Republic of Korea*. The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that, in addition to the continued provision of the services of eight experts to the ESCAP secretariat and one expert to the Typhoon Committee on a non-reimbursable loan basis, his government would make the following contributions in 2000:

		US$
(a)	Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	500 000
(b)	APCTT	20 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	10 000
(d)	SIAP	20 000
(e)	RNAEM	10 000

In addition, his government would contribute US$ 75,000 to APDC and US$ 70,000 to CCOP.

378. *Russian Federation*. The representative of the Russian Federation announced his government's intention to maintain close involvement with and provide support for project activities under SPECA.

379. *Samoa*. The representative of Samoa announced that her government would make financial contributions to the Pacific Trust Fund, the ESCAP programme of work for TCDC activities and for the work of SIAP. The details would be conveyed to the secretariat in due course.

380. *Singapore*. The representative of Singapore indicated that his government would maintain its contribution of US$ 15,000 to SIAP in 2000. In addition, it had allocated, through technical assistance, S$ 35,000 for two courses in tourism management and trade promotion to be conducted jointly with the ESCAP secretariat under the Singapore-ESCAP third-country training programme. Those two courses were targeted at the following 12 Pacific developing island countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

381. *Sri Lanka*. The representative of Sri Lanka announced that her government's intended contributions to the CGPRT Centre, SIAP and APDC in 2000 would be at the same levels as for 1999.

382. *Thailand*. The representative of Thailand announced that her government would contribute US$ 165,000 and B 912,600 in 2000, as follows:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c)	SIAP	20 000
(d)	Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
(e)	Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 40,000 and B 912,600 to CCOP, US$ 44,000 to APDC, US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee and US$ 1,000 to the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

383. *Viet Nam*. The representative of Viet Nam announced that in 2000 his government would maintain the same level of its intended contributions as in 1999, which included US$ 5,000 for the ESCAP programme of work, US$ 4,000 for APCTT and US$ 2,990 for RNAEM. In addition, it would contribute US$ 5,000 for APDC.

384. In announcing their intended contributions for 2000, several delegations emphasized that their governments attached great importance to the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and its regional institutions and pledged to continue their support and cooperation. They also expressed support of the secretariat's proposal for the conduct of ad hoc ex-post-facto impact evaluation of selected technical cooperation projects implemented by ESCAP.

particularly those implemented with financial support from the traditional bilateral donors, the process of which would have to involve at least some of the intended beneficiaries of such projects. The suggestion was also made that the secretariat should prepare an information paper on the modalities of carrying out such evaluation, covering the type of evaluation agency or beneficiaries to be involved, the extent of the funds to be earmarked, identification of key performance indicators and so on, for consideration and discussion by ACPR.

385. The Commission noted with appreciation the advisory services rendered to its developing members and associate members in 1999 under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation. Such advisory services had been significantly beneficial to developing recipient countries. It urged the secretariat to maintain the availability of such advisory services.

386. Several delegations from the Pacific island countries reported their financial difficulties and urged the Commission to continue to provide financial assistance for their participation in the intergovernmental meetings of the Commission.

387. Several delegations expressed the need to exert further efforts in securing adequate institutional and programme support funds for the three regional institutions of ESCAP. The suggestion was made that the regional institutions should develop an aggressive marketing strategy, such as fee-based services, so that they could become self-sustaining. The Commission urged that, apart from stronger programme support from donor countries and cooperation partners, the beneficiary participating countries of those institutions should exert greater efforts in increasing their institutional support contributions to them.

388. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 2000 made by 20 members and associate members and one observer state at the current session amounted to approximately US$ 9.92 million, comprising US$ 5.81 million in cash and an estimated US$ 4.11 million in kind. Those amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC, the Typhoon Committee and the Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund.

389. The Commission noted that the total pledges did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations for ESCAP-executed projects were not reflected in the total pledges.

390. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for the intended contributions announced at the current session. Such pledges symbolized their commitment to and support for the goals and priorities of ESCAP. The secretariat would continue to explore other sources of financing ESCAP technical cooperation activities, including other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, for example the European Union, and non-governmental organizations. The secretariat would also look into the formulation of certain marketing strategies for the regional institutions, taking into account their respective objectives and missions as well as their respective characteristics. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members, in particular the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, as well as the economies in transition, through ESCAP technical cooperation programmes.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

391. The Commission had before it the annual report of APDC for 1999, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1390).

392. The Director of APDC reported that in 1999 a series of consultation missions to 14 member countries had been undertaken in order to brief members on the focus of the Centre's current activities, discuss its provisional project portfolio and obtain views on its future development. Subsequently, a medium-term business plan incorporating the project portfolio had been approved by the Programme Advisory Committee and the General Council. The Director further reported that, in addition to the four traditional programme areas, energy and environment, gender and development, poverty alleviation and human resources development, the Programme Advisory Committee had approved the establishment of five new programme areas: economic and financial management, information technology, rural development, trade and investment, and urban development.

393. Although the contributions of member countries continued to decline alarmingly, APDC continued to implement major programmes and projects for its members. Those included a series of gender training workshops; an Asia-Pacific gender training assessment meeting for national machineries; post-Beijing activities for implementation of the Global Platform for Action in the Asian region; an Asia-Pacific non-governmental organization planning meeting; a conference on smart partnership in urban and rural development, which focused on developing smart communities in the next millennium; social capital formation in microfinance in the Philippines;

meetings of the plenary committee for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific council for information technology cooperation, and an expert group meeting on strengthening institutional capacities for sustainable rural energy services.

394. The Centre had also produced a number of publications, including a collection of Asia-Pacific gender training assessment papers; *Asia-Pacific Post-Beijing Implementation Monitor 1999*; *Asia-Pacific Development Monitor* and *Journal of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre*.

395. For the financial year 1999, the situation on APDC was bleak. Although the total amount pledged was US$ 597,862, only US$ 457,728 had been received by APDC. As the total operating expenditure for 1999 was US$ 1,083,852, an additional US$ 626,184 had been obtained from other sources.

396. The Director expressed gratitude for the continued support provided by member countries, notably the host country, Malaysia, and Japan.

397. A number of representatives commented favourably on the work of APDC. The Centre was urged to organize projects and events relating to regional trade, technology and industrial development and to involve experts from member countries in the various studies and projects. The Government of India provided useful comments on APDC activities which the Director pledged to incorporate in future programmes.

Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

398. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1191).

399. The Commission noted that during the past year, CCOP had continued its efforts in the development of human resources and technology of its member countries in the four main sectors of energy, minerals, coastal zones and geohazards, and that a total of 22 activities had been successfully completed. In the energy sector, projects related to resource evaluation and planning, geological correlation and Pre-Tertiary studies, the interactive interpretation of geological and geophysical data, safety and environment, and geothermal energy development had been undertaken. In the mineral sector, the training activities focused mainly on the digital compilation of geoscientific maps, seismic surveys, environmental issues related to groundwater, industrial minerals, GIS for mineral resources assessment and the impact of sea-level rise. The coastal zone sector focused on three activities related to COASTPLAN, which had been terminated at the end of the year. Under the geohazard sector, a technical meeting on exodynamic geohazards in East and South-East Asia had been conducted.

400. The Commission noted the strong commitment of member countries of CCOP and the continued support of cooperating countries and relevant organizations. It was also pleased to note the continued cooperation of CCOP with ESCAP in exchanging geoscientific information and undertaking joint activities under the work programme, so as to avoid duplication of effort and use the available resources effectively.

401. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance extended by Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the relevant cooperating organizations, to the programme areas concerning coastal zone and energy management, and the development of mineral resources and geohazard mitigation. The Commission urged that such assistance and support continue.

Mekong River Commission

402. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1192) and presented by the Chief Executive Officer of the MRC Secretariat.

403. The Commission noted with appreciation the important achievements and progress made in 1999 by MRC, which was now firmly settled in Phnom Penh after a difficult period of relocation of its headquarters from Bangkok in mid-1998. It took particular note of the systematic implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement that had established MRC through the adoption of its first strategic plan for 1999-2003, the streamlining of MRC programmes and the strengthening of MRC technical capacity, including improvement of coordination of its work with other partners in the region.

404. The Commission also noted with interest the important progress made in several major programmes of MRC, particularly the water utilization programme, the environment programme, the fisheries programme, the agriculture and irrigation programme, the human resources development/capacity-building programme and the formulation of the Basin Development Plan. Apart from these programmes, it took note of the completion of eight studies and projects, and the continued implementation of other projects and activities under its work programme in 1999, and the shifting of the approach from projects to programmes which focused more on its core functions. In addition, the Commission was informed of the strengthening of international cooperation by MRC, including regular

dialogue meetings with, and official visits to, the other two riparian states, China and Myanmar; frequent consultation with the donor community and strategic partners; and frequent dialogues with other major river basin organizations, such as the Murray-Darling River Basin Commission.

405. The Commission noted with satisfaction the support from the donor community, with a combined value of more than US$ 30 million already pledged in the current year to support the activities of MRC. It also noted that the annual work programme of MRC for 2000 highlighted 16 projects as top priority, requiring immediate assistance from the donors for implementation in 2000 and onwards.

Typhoon Committee

406. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1193), and introduced by a representative of the Typhoon Committee.

407. The Commission noted with appreciation the important progress and achievements made by the Committee and its members in 1999 on meteorological observations, forecasts and warnings, on hydrological components, including improvements in flood forecasts and warning, as well as storm surge forecasts, and on natural disaster reduction. In that connection, it noted with appreciation the important contribution of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in its continued provision of numerical weather products to the Committee members.

408. The Commission noted the increase in the number of subregional cooperation activities of the Committee in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, training and research. It took particular note of the increased importance attached by the Committee to addressing the impacts of water-related disasters, including an increase in research on and the improvement of forecasts. It also noted the support provided by ESCAP to various activities of the Committee members and the valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Typhoon Committee over the years.

409. The Commission was informed that the Committee had reviewed and adopted the revised Regional Cooperation Programme Implementation Plan. It took special note of the increased importance attached by the Committee to training activities, particularly the establishment of the Typhoon Committee Research Fellowship Scheme, with emphasis on the exchange programme among the Committee members. The Commission noted the initial positive response of several members of the Typhoon Committee with regard to the Scheme. It also noted with interest the decision of the Committee to launch an expert exchange programme with other countries and increase networking and scientific exchanges with other Asian and Pacific tropical cyclone regional bodies.

410. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its continued hosting of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat for providing a full-time meteorologist and support staff, and for the continued services of the Coordinator of the Typhoon Committee Secretariat. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the thirty-second session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and for providing the Typhoon Committee Secretariat with the services of a hydrological expert.

Panel on Tropical Cyclones

411. The Commission had before it the report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, transmitted under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1194), which was introduced by the representative of WMO. It expressed appreciation to the Government of Oman for hosting the twenty-seventh session of the Panel in Muscat in February and March 2000.

412. The Commission noted with appreciation the activities undertaken by the Panel in 1999. It also noted the future activities of the Panel, including the proposed assignment of names to tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. The Commission encouraged that initiative.

413. The Commission also noted the activities of the Panel in capacity-building, in particular the regional technical conference on tropical cyclones and storm surges scheduled to be held in Thailand in November 2000 and the workshop on hurricane forecasting and warning to be held in Miami, United States, in 2001.

414. It noted the support provided by the ESCAP secretariat for various activities of the Panel, especially those related to the hydrological and disaster preparedness components of its work. It also noted the continuing valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Panel over the years.

415. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Panel for its significant work and for the excellent cooperation among its members in taking increased disaster reduction and preparedness measures against disasters through monitoring, forecasting and disseminating information on tropical cyclones and hydrological hazards.

416. The Commission took note of the valuable contribution of India to the work of the Panel and its continuous support, especially the forecasting services of the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre in New Delhi. It noted with appreciation the support that

Thailand had provided for the Panel in hosting the Technical Support Unit and providing a coordinator and a meteorologist. It also noted with appreciation that Pakistan had offered to host a technical support unit, which was expected to become operational in the near future.

417. The Commission urged donor countries and institutions to provide support for the work of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones and directed the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide the Panel with substantive support within the framework of its own programme of work.

418. The Commission was pleased to note that a trust fund had been established with WMO for the activities of the Panel. It encouraged the Panel members and other ESCAP members to contribute to that fund.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

419. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1195 and Add.1 containing the report of ACPR, and E/ESCAP/1195/Add.2, containing the report of the Open-ended Informal Working Group of ACPR.

420. The report of ACPR was introduced by the representative of Sri Lanka as rapporteur. During the period under review, May 1999-May 2000, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions and 11 sessions of the Open-ended Informal Working Group. The Working Group had been reconvened to assist ACPR in its work in implementing the four recommendations made in the context of the ongoing reform of ESCAP which had been submitted to, and approved by, the Commission at its fifty-fifth session. Those recommendations aimed to intensify efforts to focus the programme of work of ESCAP and to determine the Commission's strategic direction for future activities. The Working Group had also undertaken a preliminary review of the available draft resolutions to be considered at the current Commission session.

421. The Commission appreciated the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee and recognized ACPR as a most useful and constructive forum for exchanging views, on a regular and timely basis, not only with the secretariat but also among ESCAP members and associate members. ACPR also provided a forum for brainstorming on new regional challenges and innovative measures by which ESCAP could meet the emerging economic and social development needs of its members and associate members and better fulfil its mandates.

422. The Commission noted that the Advisory Committee had provided the secretariat with guidance on matters directly relevant to the work of ESCAP. The major issues during the period under review were preparations for and review of sessions of legislative bodies, ministerial conferences, sessions of special bodies and high-level intergovernmental meetings; preparations for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions of the Commission, including the theme topic for the fifty-seventh session; implementation of the programme of work, 1998-1999; the draft medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005; proposed programme changes, 2000-2001; and the Regional Hearing in preparation for the Millennium Assembly.

423. The Commission commended the work carried out by the Open-ended Informal Working Group of ACPR, which had explored ways and means of improving mechanisms and strengthening capacity within the secretariat in order to make ESCAP more effective, improve its visibility and strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations entities. The Commission endorsed the proposals of the Informal Working Group as contained in document E/ESCAP/1195/Add.2, and urged that they be implemented as part of the ongoing reform process, in order to strengthen the core competence of ESCAP and its role in the region. In that regard, the Commission welcomed the involvement of ACPR in the preparatory process for the in-depth review of the conference structure of the Commission, to be undertaken not later than at the fifty-eighth session.

424. The Commission supported the continuing efforts to streamline the publications programme of ESCAP to include those publications that were most useful. It also supported the secretariat's increasing concentration on group training activities and the promotion of TCDC in carrying out operational activities. It endorsed the increased attention being placed on improving its web site to facilitate information dissemination and allow greater access to the work of ESCAP, and thereby raise its profile.

425. The Commission noted that the "Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific" had been superseded by the "Regional Coordination Meeting". It held the view that the thematic working groups to be established were not all-encompassing. It urged that ACPR members be involved in efforts concerning the strengthening of regional coordination mechanisms.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

426. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1196 and Corr.1. It decided that its fifty-seventh session would be held in Bangkok in March/April 2001. The exact dates of the session would be determined after consultations with the

member governments and the Chairperson of the Commission, and the secretariat would inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

427. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-seventh session would be "Balanced development of urban and rural areas and regions within the countries of Asia and the Pacific".

Adoption of the report of the Commission

428. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the 10th meeting of its fifty-sixth session on 7 June 2000.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

56/1. Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the responsibility of ESCAP for initiating and participating in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, and for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the large membership and diverse needs of the region and considering it essential for the secretariat to sharpen the focus of its programme of work so as to support subregional initiatives and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of programmes established at the subregional level,

Acknowledging the importance of having a concerted strategy and close coordination among member countries of the ESCAP region and the relevant development agencies, as well as the development frameworks concerned, to promote cooperation among the countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion in enhancing economic and social development and poverty alleviation in the area,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the capacity of the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion as a means to help to narrow the large development gap between countries in the region,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by the secretariat to various development programmes in the ESCAP region, including the Greater Mekong Subregion, and the high level of support extended to the secretariat in that endeavour by other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies,

Welcoming the statement of the Ninth Conference on the Programme of Economic Cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion, held in Manila in January 2000, and in particular the determination expressed by the ministers to redouble their initiatives to accelerate, strengthen and extend regional cooperation within the subregion,

Noting with appreciation the continued financial support given by United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and the Asian Development Bank to a number of development programmes for countries in the subregion under the Greater Mekong Subregion framework, some of which have been undertaken in collaboration with the secretariat,

Recognizing the important role of the Mekong River Commission, now implementing, through its Secretariat, the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, in pursuance of an economically, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River basin,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned regional members and associate members:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the development programmes in the Greater Mekong Subregion through existing bodies, including the Mekong River Commission;

(b) To review jointly the existing development strategies with a view to developing a more concerted and rational approach that could respond effectively to the challenges of globalization while avoiding duplication of efforts in the development of the Greater Mekong Subregion;

(c) To continue to work closely together to ensure that development cooperation in the Greater Mekong Subregion is being pursued in a complementary manner;

(d) To formulate the development programmes in such a way that the private sector is encouraged to support them;

2. *Proclaims* the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009, in order to draw the attention and encourage the support of the international community for the intensification of economic and social development in the subregion;

3. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage, at the global level, support for its implementation;

4. *Urges* member countries, and international and intergovernmental organizations and institutions, to strengthen cooperation with and assistance to Greater Mekong Subregion development programmes.

[1] See paragraph 129 above.

5. *Encourages* donor governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to assist countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion in their capacity-building to enable them to integrate effectively into the regional and global economy;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To help to mobilize the necessary resources to provide technical assistance and assistance in other areas that may be deemed necessary, upon the request of various Greater Mekong Subregion development frameworks, particularly in such key sectors as human resources development, trade and investment, transport and communications, poverty alleviation and social development;

(b) To call necessary meetings among the parties concerned to design a work programme for the development of the Greater Mekong Subregion with the aim of achieving a tangible result in the given period;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to monitor the overall programmes of various framework activities in order to report to the Commission at its annual sessions and to all concerned member countries, and to evaluate the implementation of the programmes every three years until the end of the Decade.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

56/2 Advancing human resources development in Asia and the Pacific[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/196 of 18 December 1997 on developing human resources for development, in which, inter alia, the Assembly emphasized the need for international cooperation to advance human resources development and the need for concerted efforts to support the efforts of developing countries to develop their human resources,

Recalling also Commission resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994 on an update of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, the annex to which contains the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994,

Recalling further Commission resolution 51/2 of 1 May 1995 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission welcomed the proposals for action for regional cooperation in human resources development, as reviewed by the Panel of Eminent Persons on Human Resources Development and presented in the secretariat theme study,

Emphasizing the importance of human resources development as a sustainable national strategy for promoting economic and social development and alleviating poverty, as well as for integrating developing countries and those with economies in transition into the international economic system,

Recognizing the need to accelerate the development of human resources in marginalized population groups as a means of enhancing educational, health and employment status,

Recognizing also the need to strengthen the capacity of the public sector in the planning and delivery of human resources development programmes and services, particularly for the poor and other disadvantaged groups,

Acknowledging the successful implementation by the secretariat of phases I, II and III of the Jakarta Plan of Action, and the high level of support extended to the secretariat in that initiative by other concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies,

Acknowledging also the strong financial support of various donor governments and non-governmental organizations to the secretariat's human resources development programme,

1. *Calls upon* regional members and associate members:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994;

(b) To strengthen their national policies to advance human resources development, focusing on investments in all areas of human resources development, including education and training, health and nutrition, and promoting sustainable livelihoods to empower people to become self-reliant and self-supporting within a facilitating environment;

(c) To review existing human resources strategies with a view to developing new approaches that could respond more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of globalization, as well as the emergence of a knowledge-based and information-based society;

(d) To consider gender mainstreaming as an approach to promoting gender equality in human

[2] See paragraph 227 above.

resources development, with a view to correcting and bridging the present significant gap between men and women in access to opportunities and resources;

2 *Encourages* donor governments and agencies, regional and international financial institutions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to assist developing countries to develop their human resources and to build and strengthen the national capacity to enable them to function effectively in a globalizing world;

3 *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue to provide member and associate member governments with support in the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action, as revised in 1994, giving priority attention to those in most need;

(b) To promote national capacity-building of developing countries, giving priority attention to those countries and subregions in most need, through the provision of training and advisory services for national personnel working in key areas, such as poverty alleviation, formal and non-formal education, community empowerment, population, health and social services, youth and women in development, entrepreneurship and skills development, trade and investment promotion, industrial and technological development, environment and natural resources management, administration and management, and information technology, including Internet access;

(c) To target the rural and urban poor, women, youth and children in especially difficult circumstances and people with disabilities as beneficiaries of the secretariat's human resources development activities;

(d) To promote the sharing of best practices and experiences in human resources development policies and programmes among countries in the region, through such means as the organization of regional and subregional forums, intercountry exchange via the ESCAP Network of Centres of Excellence for Human Resources Development Research and Training, the administration of the annual ESCAP Human Resources Development Award, and research and information dissemination via both the print and the electronic media, including the ESCAP web site;

(e) To accord priority to the implementation of phase IV (2001 to 2005) of the Jakarta Plan of Action, the focus of which should be to build a stronger foundation in the region in the areas of education, health and sustainable livelihoods to meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization and the emergence of a knowledge-based and information-based society;

4 *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to seek extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, to provide technical assistance and other means of support for developing countries, giving priority attention to those countries and subregions in most need, in their efforts to advance human resources development;

5 *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

56/3 Regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 51/11 of 1 May 1995 on regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, by which the Commission endorsed the recommendations of the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing in September 1994, and the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, in which, inter alia, the Assembly emphasized the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustainable development,

Recalling further the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna in July 1999,

Recalling the decision of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session in April 1999 to hold the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi in November 1999,

Noting with satisfaction the success of the Second Ministerial Conference, which adopted the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium, and which launched phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development,

[3] See paragraph 171 above.

Reiterating the strong interest of members and associate members in participating in the cooperative activities that will emerge from phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme and their commitment to contribute to those activities,

Recognizing the essential role of space technologies and their applications in environment and natural resources management, food security and agricultural systems, capacity-building, human resources development and education, poverty alleviation, natural disaster reduction, health care and hygiene, and sustainable development planning towards improving the quality of life,

Recalling the efforts of the Commission in promoting space applications for sustainable development in the region and its commitment to continue to play a pivotal and catalytic role in that regard,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in New Delhi in November 1999;

2. *Also endorses* the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium, and the Strategy and Action Plan on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific for the New Millennium, which were adopted at the Conference;

3. *Calls for* the early implementation of the Delhi Declaration, the Strategy and Action Plan and other recommendations of the Conference;

4. *Encourages* all members and associate members to participate actively in phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and to initiate effective national implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan;

5. *Recommends* that the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, under the purview of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, should advise as appropriate on the implementation of the Programme, and invites members and associate members to enhance their representation on the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee;

6. *Invites* all United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, and multilateral donors and international agencies, to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference, the Delhi Declaration, and the Strategy and Action Plan envisaged for phase II of the Regional Space Applications Programme;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To accord due priority to the activities proposed in the Strategy and Action Plan and to incorporate the Regional Space Applications Programme in the biennial programmes of work;

(b) To strengthen the capability of the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support the regional cooperative network towards successful implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan;

(c) To mobilize resources for technical cooperation activities in line with the recommendations of the Second Ministerial Conference, the Delhi Declaration and the Strategy and Action Plan;

(d) To report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of these recommendations.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

56/4. Promotion of a sustainable energy future for small island states[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Noting the call for the achievement of a sustainable energy future for all by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, and the subsequent nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, held in New York in 1997,

Recognizing that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994, had translated Agenda 21 into specific policies, actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to enable small island developing states to achieve sustainable development,

Concerned about the continuing economic and environmental vulnerability of small island states and their energy sector in particular,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados, adopted at the Conference, which recognized that the international community had a responsibility to facilitate the efforts of small island developing states to minimize the stress on their fragile ecosystems, including through cooperative action and partnership,

Noting the call in the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, also adopted at the Conference, to gather and disseminate information, and promote regional cooperation and technical exchanges among small island developing states on energy-sector issues, including new and renewable sources of energy,

[4] See paragraph 74 above.

Noting also the communiqué from the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, adopted on 25 September 1999, which emphasized the need for the international community to assist small island developing states in advancing their sustainable development strategies, including, in particular, in the areas of renewable energy,

Noting further that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 27 and 28 September 1999, called for the implementation in small island developing states of the best practices for achieving clean, sustainable energy resources and the encouragement of private sector involvement in the use of renewable energy resources and innovative financing schemes with a view to longer-term self-sufficiency in energy resources,

Noting that the report to the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific repeatedly emphasized the need for the development of environmentally and economically sustainable renewable energy resources throughout the ESCAP region,

Noting also the call by the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at its sixth session, held in Bangkok on 30 and 31 May 2000, for the pursuit of clean and renewable energy technologies for the provision of future energy needs in the Pacific region,

Recognizing that the location, small size and dispersion of the island countries of the ESCAP region make the continued or expanded use of imported energy resources and technologies comparatively expensive,

Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among members and associate members on the efficient use of energy and the enhanced application of appropriate renewable energy technologies for small island states;

(b) To convene an expert-level meeting to review ongoing initiatives and develop a programme of pilot and demonstration projects in the small island states;

(c) To assist the small island member and associate member governments and participating agencies in securing the resources needed for the implementation of the programme or individual elements thereof;

(d) To provide ad hoc advisory services and facilitate other forms of assistance to small island member and associate member governments to support national and subregional group training and capacity-building initiatives for the promotion of renewable energy and its efficient use;

(e) To report to the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries at its seventh session, and to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session, on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, with recommendations for further action.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

56/5 Impending retirement of Mr Adrianus Mooy, Executive Secretary of the Commission

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Aware that the fifty-sixth session will be the final session attended by Mr Adrianus Mooy in his capacity as Executive Secretary,

Recognizing the contributions and distinguished service which he has rendered in his role as head of the Commission secretariat,

Noting with appreciation the changes which he has brought to the work of the Commission, in particular on the reform of the conference, programme and secretariat structures,

Acknowledging the support which he has given to the further strengthening of regional and subregional cooperation among the members and associate members of the Commission, as well as to the promotion of interregional cooperation,

Acknowledging further his efforts to promote closer collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions and the Asian Development Bank in the wake of the Asian economic and financial crisis,

1. *Wishes* to extend a profound tribute to him for his contributions to the work of the secretariat during his years as Executive Secretary;

2. *Expresses* its deep gratitude for the assistance that his leadership has given towards the economic and social development of the region;

3. *Conveys* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr Mooy in a manner fulfilling all the ideals of the international civil service;

4. *Extends* its sincere wishes for his health and happiness in the years ahead.

10th meeting
7 June 2000

Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2001

CONTENTS

		Page
Subprogrammes		
1.	Regional economic cooperation	57
2.	Development research and policy analysis	63
3.	Social development	67
4.	Population and rural and urban development	74
5.	Environment and natural resources development	79
6.	Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	86
7.	Statistics	91

Annex I

REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2000-2001

Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment and subprogramme 3, Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology. The subprogramme is carried out by the International Trade and Industry Division.

The overall objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen regional and subregional economic cooperation for promoting trade, investment and technology linkages and accelerating industrial development. For the biennium 2000-2001, the subprogramme will aim (a) to enhance the national capacity of developing countries to respond effectively to challenges and opportunities emerging from the global environment for trade, investment and technology flows and industrial development; (b) to assist the developing countries, with particular attention to the needs of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, to accelerate their industrial and technological development and to promote their exports; (c) to enhance regional cooperation to promote trade efficiency and electronic commerce and to facilitate access to information technology; and (d) to enhance intraregional and intersubregional flows of trade, investment and technology, inter alia, through the strengthening of networks of institutional support services, including regional information services. The subprogramme will be implemented through a concerted mix of research and operational activities. Based on policy analyses addressing emerging challenges and opportunities, a forum will be provided for continuing dialogue and cooperative action at the regional level. The capacity of governments to respond effectively will be enhanced through technical assistance activities promoting exchange of experiences and human resources development. The implications of globalization and liberalization for intraregional trade, investment and technology flows, as well as industrial development, will be analysed with particular focus on the more vulnerable groups of countries and the special need of least developed countries, island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The need for capacity-building of national institutions will be identified in the context of the changing regional economic development, and activities will be undertaken to strengthen the capabilities, inter alia, through institutional reform and networking. Bilateral funding has provided a means to supplement and thereby strengthen the impact of the regular budget activities of the subprogramme, in particular through technical assistance. Regional cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and regional commissions will be pursued through joint extrabudgetary project planning and implementation. ESCAP will also collaborate with and participate in activities of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

At the end of the biennium 2000-2001, it is expected that the following accomplishments will be achieved:

(a) Sensitization of policy makers in the developing countries to the emerging challenges and opportunities and assistance in identifying positive elements of common interest for future negotiations at WTO, as well as to emerging issues regarding industrial and technological development;

(b) Strengthened institutional and human capacities and cooperation for the promotion of industrial development, technology transfer and diversification of exports which are of strategic importance to least developed countries, landlocked countries and Pacific island countries, and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Increased awareness of the importance of capital markets for privatization and for the promotion of foreign investment inflows and investment promotion measures, as well as improved capacity of boards of investment to facilitate foreign direct investment;

(d) Strengthened institutionalized cooperation in trade, industry and technology through networks of information, research and training.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. *Substantive servicing of meetings:*

(a) Commission:

1.1.101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1.1.102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1.1.103 Panel discussions on the theme topic of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission (2000) (1 meeting)

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1.1.104 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1.1.105 Plenary (2000) (8 meetings)

1.1.106 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1.1.107 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

1.1.108 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(e) Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:

1.1.1060 Plenary (2000) (4 meetings postponed from 1998–1999)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

1.1.201 Report on issues relating to trade and industry (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001)

1.1.202 Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2001)

1.1.203 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2000)

1.1.204 Report on development through globalization and partnerships in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1.1.205 Report on issues related to trade and investment (2001)

1.1.206 Report on issues related to industry and technology (2001)

1.1.207 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation (2001)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

1.1.208 Report on issues relating to trade and investment (2000, 2001)

1.1.209 Report on issues relating to industry and technology (2000, 2001)

(d) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement

1.1.210 Report (2000–2001)

2. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs)*

1.1.301 Ad hoc expert group on issues of common concern to developing countries on future multilateral trade negotiations (2000)

1.1.302 Ad hoc expert group on export competitiveness and sustained economic recovery (2000)

1.1.303 Ad hoc expert group on integration of industrial activities at the regional and global levels: prospects and challenges in an era of globalization and liberalization (2000)

1.1.304 Ad hoc expert group on promotion of new forms of financing for transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies (2001)

1.1.305 Ad hoc expert group on emerging issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce (2001)

1.1.306 Ad hoc expert group on regional trade and investment information networking (2000) [postponed from 1999-2000]

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Recurrent (co-operative publications)*

1.2.101 Industrial and Technological Developments News for Asia and the Pacific (2000–2001) (RB/XB)

1.2.102 Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2000–2001) (RB/XB)

1.2.103 Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific – 5th edition (2000) (RB)

1.2.104 TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin (2 in 2000–12 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1.2.105 Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998–1999]

2. *Motivated new co-operative publications*

1.2.201 Implications of globalization of economic activities for industrial diversification and restructuring and technological development in Asian and Pacific economies: prospects and challenges in the twenty-first century (2001) (RB)

1.2.202 Study on comparative assessment of policies and measures to promote industrial complementarities and investment in selected manufacturing sectors for selected Asian and Pacific economies (2000) (RB)

1.2.203 Study on a comparative assessment of and policy options on private sector development and privatization in least developed countries and economies in transition (2001) (RB)

1.2.204 Studies on implications of the emerging trade agenda for developing countries (2 in 2000–1 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1.2.205 Development and promotion of small and medium-scale enterprises, including agro and agro-allied industries (2000) (RB/XB)

1.2.206 Study on new modalities for the diffusion, financing and management of environmentally sound technologies (2000) (RB)

1.2.207 Study on enhancing competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises through application of new technology (2001) (RB)

1-2-308 Study on the promotion of new forms of technology transfer and technology partnerships within the context of TRIPS and TRIMS (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-309 Guidebooks on trading and investing conditions (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-310 E-economy/e-commerce initiatives of ESCAP (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-311 Export competitiveness and sustained economic recovery (2000) (RB)

1-2-312 Coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment: the role of regional cooperation arrangements (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-313 Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis (2000) (RB)

1-2-314 Study on the impact of liberalization of trade in services (2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-3151 Traders' manual and guidebook for Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

1-2-3161 Monograph series on studies in trade and investment (3 in 2000) (RB/XB) [3 outputs postponed from 1998-1999]

5 *Electronic (audio and video) resources, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news documentaries and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type)*

1-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Trade Policy, Trade Promotion and Trade Facilitation, Industry and Technology (<http://www.unescap.org/tid/> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

8 *Technical material for outside users (diskettes, software etc.)*

1-2-801 Case studies, pilot projects, guidelines and recommendations for the adoption of the trade facilitation measures and standards, best practices and business strategies for electronic commerce to enhance macrolevel efficiency in the conduct of international trade (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-802 Training material modules and information on international trade and industry matters such as WTO, environmentally sound technologies and management, trade facilitation measures and electronic commerce, trade promotion for human resources development and sharing of information and experience on a global scale (4 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-804 Technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations, and dissemination of information (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-2-805 Training material for training of personnel involved in transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications (2000) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

1-3-001 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Trade and Industry (2000, 2001) (RB)

1-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental/international organizations, including ACC, ADB, APEC, ARC, ASEAN, ECO, Pacific Community, PECC, SAARC, South Pacific Forum, WEF and WTO, as well as non-governmental organizations (6 in 2000, 6 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and ITC (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-004 Collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade, investment, industry and technology in developing interregional linkages and in promoting information exchange and cooperation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-005 Technical and substantive support to the regional and international trade facilitation and electronic commerce-related organizations such as CEFACT and AFACT (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-006 Technical and substantive support to BIMST-EC and SPECA (2000, 2001) (RB)

1-3-007 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-008 Technical, substantive and managerial support to the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-3-009 Technical and substantive support to the ESCAP Trade and Investment Information Network (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions)*

1-4-101 Advisory services on industrial investment promotion measures (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-102 Advisory services on institutional support for industrial diversification and promotion of complementarities (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-103 Advisory services on promoting agro-industrial linkages and development of small and medium-sized industries (2001) (RB/XB)

1-4-104 Advisory services on institutional capacity-building in consultancy for better application of new and environmentally sound technology (2000) (RB/XB)

1-4-105 Advisory services on the creation of a climate conducive to investment-related technology transfer to economies in transition and least developed countries (2001) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained)*

1-4-201 Training workshops on WTO-related issues, including accession of non-WTO members (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (45 participants)

1-4-202 Regional seminar to review investment promotion measures (2001) (RB/XB) (10 participants)

1-4-203 Seminar on capacity-building in trade policy for Central Asian economies (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

1-4-204 Seminar on the role of regional cooperation arrangements in coping with external shocks and discontinuities in trade and investment (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

1-4-205 Workshops/national seminars on the strategies for promotion of exports and foreign direct investment in Indo-China under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China (4 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB) (280 participants)

1-4-206 Meetings of the Private Sector Advisory Group and the Networking of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Greater Mekong Subregion under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (280 participants)

1-4-207 Promotion of intraregional trade through trade fairs and seminars (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

1-4-208 Seminar on strengthening institutional capacity for commodity sector trade development (2000) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-209 National seminars on training of trainers in industrial project preparation and management in least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries, and countries with economies in transition (3 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (125 participants)

1-4-210 Investment forum for selected countries of the ESCAP region (2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

1-4-211 Workshops on promotion of agro-technical equipment for agro-industrial linkages in disadvantaged economies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (24 participants)

1-4-212 Workshop on strengthening the partnership among governments, the private sector and NGOs for the greater application of environmentally sound technologies (2000) (RB/XB) (10 participants)

1-4-213 National workshops on enhanced competitiveness of small and medium-sized industries through applications of new technology (4 in 2000) (RB/XB) (69 participants)

1-4-214 Training of personnel involved in transfer of selected environmentally sound technologies and their applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-215 Training in standardization, metrology and quality control management systems for improved industrial competitiveness (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

1-4-216 Workshops/seminars on capacity-building for the adoption of trade facilitation measures (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

1-4-217 Seminar on enhancing capacity and networking of trade-related training institutions (2000) (RB/XB) (12 participants)

1-4-218 Seminar on trade and investment information access for economies in transition (2000) (RB/XB) (16 participants)

1-4-219 Workshop on networking for trade-related research for economies in transition (2001) (RB/XB) (16 participants)

1-4-2201 Seminar/symposium on promotion of interregional cooperation on issues concerning the regional and global trading and investment environment (2000) (RB/XB) (70 participants) [postponed from 1998-1999]

1-4-221 Seminar on interregional cooperation in trade and investment (2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

4. *Field (country, subregional, regional) projects:*

1-4-401 Project on capacity-building of enterprises in selected least developed countries/economies in transition to enhance their export competitiveness (including seminars, workshops and advisory services) (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 2. Development research and policy analysis

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 2, Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis, and subprogramme 10, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The subprogramme is carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

The principal objectives of the subprogramme are to increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region, to highlight trends and emerging problems, to draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns and to advocate those policies which promote regional cooperation in economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific on the basis of shared experiences and the growing complementarities among economies of the region. In addition to its own activities, the subprogramme monitors and coordinates the ESCAP-wide activities on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The activities under this subprogramme will focus on (a) monitoring, analysis and dissemination of recent developments in macroeconomic performance and related policies and their implications for development, particularly in the light of the Asian crisis which occurred in mid-1997, (b) strengthening and improving coordination among policy-making institutions, especially those dealing with monetary, fiscal and financial sector policies and those responsible for overall development strategies, and (c) strengthening human resources capacity in institutions responsible for macroeconomic management.

The subprogramme activities will also give priority to issues relating to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Particular attention will be given to supporting the efforts of those countries at economic reform, mobilization and efficient utilization of resources, greater understanding of globalization issues, including their implications for trade and investment, problems of debt-servicing liabilities, and greater appreciation of social sector and sustainable development issues.

The objectives of the subprogramme will be addressed mainly through advisory services, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses, with the prime objective of enhancing the development of human resources, especially the skills of public officials, and promoting public-private sector cooperation as regards policy identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the identified areas as well as facilitating the sharing of experiences and information among countries. For least developed countries, these issues will also be addressed in the context of the final review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

The output and services funded from extrabudgetary resources will facilitate the sharing of experiences and information among the participating countries and enhance the assistance provided to the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The technical assistance programme under this subprogramme will comprise the provision of advisory services, workshops and training courses, with the prime objective of enhancing the development of human resources in the developing countries in the ESCAP region, especially the skills of national experts for policy identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in such areas as financial sector management, sustainable development, social impact of the economic crisis and poverty alleviation.

By the end of the biennium 2000-2001, the expected accomplishments will include enhanced national capacity to deal with the emerging economic and social problems arising from the globalization and liberalization process in the ESCAP region, including the challenges faced by the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island countries of the ESCAP region, strengthened coordination among national policy-making institutions and enhanced regional cooperation.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

(a) Commission

2-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-103 Informal meetings on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001)

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-105 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-106 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

2-1-107 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(e) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

2-1-108 Plenary (2000) (4 meetings)

(f) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

2-1-109 Plenary (2001) (4 meetings)

(g) High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development:

2-1-110 Plenary (2000) (8 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries:

2-1-201 Regional report on final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001)

(b) Commission on Sustainable Development:

2-1-202 Report on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2000) (RB/XB)

(c) Commission:

2-1-203 Reports on the current economic situation and policy issues (2000, 2001)

2-1-204 Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (2000)

2-1-205 Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries (2001)

(d) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

2-1-206 Reports on issues related to Pacific island developing countries (3 in 2000)

(e) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

2-1-207 Reports on issues related to least developed and landlocked developing countries (3 in 2001)

(f) High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development:

2-1-208 Report on the High-level Regional Consultative Meeting on Financing for Development (2000)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

2-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies (2000, 2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

2-2-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-2-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual) (RB)

2-2-103 Development Papers (2000, 2001) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

2-2-301 Analysis of policy responses to the social impact of the economic crisis (2000) (RB/XB)

2-2-302 Policy issues related to the interdependence of development and environment issues in the context of the promotion of sustainable development (2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-303 Globalization, liberalization and volatility: policy issues arising for the financial sector (2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-304 Economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island countries (2000) (RB/XB)

2-2-305 Final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):

2-2-501 ESCAP Virtual Conference on Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Decision-making Processes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Development Research and Policy Analysis on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/drpad/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

9. Special events:

2-2-901 Launching of the annual Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

2-3-001 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, UNCTAD, World Bank, IMF and ADB on development issues and policies, including those relating to economies in transition (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-002 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region working on economic development issues, strategies and policies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-003 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental institutions, including the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP, SACEP, SPREP and the Mekong River Commission on issues concerned with integration of environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-005 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including UNDP, UNIFEM, ILO, UNESCO, the World Bank and ADB on poverty and social issues, strategies and policies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2-3-006 Collaboration with ECA and UNCTAD on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-007 Collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and SPREP on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-008 Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on matters related to Pacific island developing countries (2000, 2001) (RB)

2-3-009 Collaboration with the World Bank, IMF and ADB on matters related to least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

2-4-101 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and economic reform in economies in transition (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

2-4-102 Advisory services on policy responses to the social impacts of the economic crisis (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-103 Advisory services on institution-building for integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-104 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2-4-105 Advisory services on promotion of sustainable development in small island developing states (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

2-4-201 Regional seminar on financial sector management (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

2-4-202 Regional seminar on achieving sustainable development in economies in transition: from stabilization to growth (2000) (XB) (25 participants)

2-4-203 Regional seminar on policy responses to the social impacts of the economic crisis and lessons for the future (2000) (XB) (30 participants)

2-4-204 Subregional workshops on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making processes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (100 participants)

2-4-205 National workshops on strategies for poverty alleviation policy design and implementation and evaluation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

2-4-206 Expert group meeting on the final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

2-4-207 High-level seminar on the final review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

2-4-208 Workshop on economic management and institutional capacity-building in least developed and Pacific island developing countries (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

Subprogramme 3. Social development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 5, Poverty alleviation: social development, and the component on women in development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Social Development Division.

The objective for the biennium will be to strengthen national capacity to promote social development as a means of alleviating poverty in the Asian and Pacific region. This objective will be achieved through three areas of intervention: (a) social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups; (b) human resources development; and (c) women in development. Activities will focus on strengthening the social policy and institutional framework to create an environment conducive to promoting the rights and needs of disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, especially the poor, youth, women, older persons and people with disabilities. Another area of emphasis will be strengthening the capacity of social development personnel to promote the human resources development of key target groups, especially the poor and youth, through more effective planning and delivery of social services. Activities will also focus on promoting gender equality and the advancement of women through their economic and social empowerment as well as gender mainstreaming in the development process. In implementing activities, special attention will be given to the needs of the least developed and landlocked countries, and countries with economies in transition, as well as those countries affected by the Asian regional economic crisis.

An important component of the subprogramme will be to provide regional support for the implementation of global mandates, including the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond; and the Proclamation on Ageing. The subprogramme will also be guided by the following regional mandates: the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific; and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons.

The subprogramme will coordinate the ESCAP-wide activities related to gender so that a gender perspective is properly integrated into the mainstream of all areas of work of ESCAP.

The output and services funded from extrabudgetary resources under this subprogramme have been planned so as to add value to the programme of work funded by the regular budget. While regular budget resources are utilized for core outputs, the extrabudgetary resources are utilized to supplement those core outputs and enhance their impact at the national and local levels. For instance, the results of a desk study may be disseminated to a larger audience through extrabudgetary activities. At the same time, the deliberations or report from an extrabudgetary technical workshop may feed into the preparation of a regular budget desk study. This mutually supportive approach, utilizing both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, maximizes the value of outputs generated by the secretariat. Extrabudgetary resources also provide the means to prepare publications, establish databases, implement regional workshops, conduct seminars and implement projects to strengthen national and institutional capacities for social development planning and programming. These are also utilized to enable the secretariat to enhance its capacity to review and monitor regional and global mandates of the General Assembly and the Commission, as well as to promote further regional cooperation in the field of social development among ESCAP countries and territories, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

By the end of the biennium 2000-2001, it is expected that the following accomplishments will be achieved:

(a) Increased attention given by national policy and programme personnel and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to development trends and programmes that have an impact on social development, focusing on poverty alleviation and social integration; the importance of promoting the rights and full participation in society of older persons, disabled persons and other disadvantaged and socially excluded groups, as central to development; key human resources development issues, including education and skills development, integrated approaches to health, and employment and income-generation; deepening poverty among women; measures to empower women; protection of women's rights as human rights through strengthened legal and institutional mechanisms; and promotion of integrated means to combat violence against women, including women migrant workers, and trafficking in women and children, and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming and promotion of the advancement of women through national machineries for the advancement of women, non-governmental organizations and other civil society partners and through information networking;

(b) Development of options for policy measures and identification of best practices by which national policy makers and programme administrators in governmental and non-governmental sectors could address critical social challenges;

(c) Upgrading of skills of social development personnel in both the public and non-governmental sectors on effective planning and delivery of basic social services.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

3-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

3-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

3-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

3-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

3-1-105 Plenary (2001) (8 meetings)

(d) Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth:

3-1-106 Plenary and working groups (2001) (16 meetings: 8 plenary and 8 working group sessions)

3-1-107 Panel discussion on HRD for youth: integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

3-1-201 Reports on issues related to social development (2000, 2001)

3-1-202 Report of the senior officials meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2000)

3-1-203 Report on the outcome of the high-level intergovernmental meeting to review regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

3-1-204 Report on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and progress in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2000)

3-1-205 Report on progress in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2001)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

3-1-206 Reports on issues related to social development (2000, 2001)

3-1-207 Report on the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

(c) Intergovernmental high-level meeting on progress in the regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

3-1-208 Reports on issues relating to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 2001)

(d) Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth:

3-1-209 Report on HRD for youth: regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001)

3-1-210 Report on HRD for youth: integrated approaches to youth health, focusing on reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):

3-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region preparatory to the intergovernmental high-level meeting (2001)

3-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on disabled persons' participation in mainstream development (2000)

3-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on preparations for the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (2001)

3-1-304 Ad hoc expert group on regional implementation of the outcome of the global review of the Beijing Platform for Action (2000)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

3-2-101 Social Development Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-102 ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-103 WINAP Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

3-2-104 Monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

3-2-301 Programmes for the empowerment and social integration of the poor and disadvantaged groups (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-302 Strengthening public policies for sustaining social development in times of crisis (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-303 Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific: goals and targets for 2000 and beyond (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-304 National policies and programmes on ageing and older persons in Asia and the Pacific: success cases (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-305 Pathfinders: towards full participation and equality of persons with disabilities in the ESCAP region (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-306 The state of human resources development in Asia and the Pacific: education, employment and health (2001) (RB)

3-2-307 Review of the HRD status of youth in the Asian and Pacific region (2001) (RB)

3-2-308 HRD country monograph series on the youth situation, policies and programmes (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-309 Guidelines for genderizing microcredit (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-310 National machineries for women in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-3111 Youth participation indicators in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3121 HRD training curriculum for planning and management of literacy programmes for women (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3131 HRD training curriculum for youth participation in development (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3141 Trainers' guidelines for self-help organizations of people with disabilities (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3151 Review of the status of sexually abused and exploited children and youth and their access to social, health and other HRD services (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3161 Social aspects of international labour migration in the ESCAP region (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3171 Case studies on national policies and programmes for older persons (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3181 Private sector collaboration in implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-2-3191 Approaches to community-based drug demand reduction in the ESCAP region (2000) [postponed from 1996-1997]

3-2-3201 Training manual on community-based responses to critical social issues: poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS (2000) [postponed from 1996-1997]

3-2-3211 Improving the status of women in poverty (2000) [postponed from 1996-1997]

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

3-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Social Policy and Integration of Disadvantaged Groups on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/sps> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/decade> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Human Resources Development (HRD) on the World Wide Web <http://www.escap-hrd.org> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-504 Videotapes on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-505 Videotape on health issues concerning youth: reproductive health and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-506 ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/wid> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-5071 Videotape on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (2000) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6. *Exhibits.*

3-2-601 Exhibits on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-602 Exhibit on HRD for youth (2001) (RB/XB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits*

3-2-701 Brochures and booklets on the ESCAP HRD Award (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-702 Fact sheets on the national HRD situation in Asia and the Pacific (40 in 2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-703 Information kit for the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-704 Booklets and information materials on critical HRD issues (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-7051 Information kit on the ESCAP HRD Award-winner (2000) (RB) [postponed form 1998-1999]

3-2-706 Best practices of successful policies and programmes to prevent sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth (2000) (XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.)*

3-2-801 Development and maintenance of the ESCAP database on national action for implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-802 Development of an ESCAP database on a regional network of social development management information systems (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-803 HRD training modules for poverty alleviation focus on education and skills development, employment-creation and health promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-804 HRD training modules for youth participation in development focus on income-generation and entrepreneurship development (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-805 HRD training modules for social and health development of sexually abused and exploited children and youth (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-806 HRD training module on the linkage between substance abuse and sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-807 Baseline survey on youth health policies and programmes (2001) (XB)

3-2-808 HRD information, education and communication materials to promote awareness among youth of issues related to reproductive health, and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-809 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database on centres of excellence for HRD (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-810 ESCAP/Uppsala University HRD database on sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB)

3-2-811 Maintenance and updating of the ESCAP database of NGOs on women in the ESCAP region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-812 HRD training module on the linkage between HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth (2000) (RB/XB)

9 *Special events:*

3-2-901 International Day of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-902 Regional campaign to promote the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-2-903 Presentation ceremony for the ESCAP HRD Award (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

III. **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)**

3-3-001 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-002 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR, UNDCP, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and WHO on activities and programmes for social development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on regional programmes and activities for social development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNDCP, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, and NGOs, on regional programmes and activities in support of the United Nations Proclamation on Ageing, the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific and other mandates relating to ageing and older persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental bodies, national institutions and NGOs on the promotion of the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-007 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the South Pacific Forum, and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-008 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, RCCAP and the Asian and Pacific Youth Councils, in regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-009 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and international and national centres of excellence in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-010 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Youth Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDCP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2001) (RB/XB)

3-3-011 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women (2000, 2001) (RB)

3-3-012 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, development banks and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions)*

3-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and regional follow-up of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, focusing on the strengthening of national strategies for poverty alleviation (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-103 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-104 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

3-4-105 Advisory services on regional implementation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (2000, 2001) (RB)

3-4-106 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops), symposia (number of events and number of officials to be trained)*

3-4-201 Subregional workshop on mechanisms for government, private sector and NGO collaboration in planning, implementation and evaluation of social development programmes (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

3-4-202 Field study-cum-regional workshop on social safety nets for the poor (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

3-4-203 Meetings on critical social issues and programmes (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-204 Regional workshop for government and NGO officials on formulation and implementation of national plans of action on ageing (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-205 Country level training workshops for public administration personnel on the rights of disabled persons to full participation and equality in the development process (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-206 Regional training of trainers on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for persons with disabilities (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-207 Regional training workshop on the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in mainstream gender equality initiatives (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-208 Subregional training workshop for statisticians on the full participation and equality dimensions of disability statistics (2000) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

3-4-209 Field study-cum-regional seminar on poverty alleviation among rural persons with disabilities (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

3-4-210 ESCAP subregional/national HRD courses for poverty alleviation, focus on education and skills development, employment creation and health promotion (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-211 ESCAP subregional/national HRD courses for social and health development of vulnerable

3-4-213 ESCAP regional/national HRD seminars on integrated approaches to youth health: focus on reproductive health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

3-4-214 Regional meetings on critical HRD issues (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-215 Regional seminar on empowerment of women through poverty alleviation, improved access to productive resources and greater participation in the development process (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-216 Regional seminar on emerging issues and innovative approaches in advancing the status of women in a rapidly globalizing world economy (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-217 Regional seminar on the implementation of the Bangkok Accord and Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Women (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-218 Training workshop on promoting women's networking in modern information technology (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-219 Training workshop on the promotion of women in business through entrepreneurship and skills development (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-220 Meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3-4-221 Regional workshop on a conceptual framework for a social development data bank (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3-4-222 ESCAP HRD course for social work personnel dealing with sexually abused and sexually exploited youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion and South Asia (2 in 2000) (RB/XB) [2 outputs postponed from 1998-1999]

3-4-223 Training workshop on promotion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

3. Fellowships

3-4-301 ESCAP HRD Award (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 4. Population and rural and urban development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 7, Poverty alleviation: population and development, and the components of rural development and urban development of subprogramme 6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Population and Rural and Urban Development Division.

The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the technical, managerial and organizational capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations at all levels to formulate population, rural and urban development policies and programmes designed to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life.

During the biennium 2000-2001, the subprogramme will pursue these objectives through the organization of training workshops on reproductive health and population and development. Technical assistance will be provided to countries, upon request, in the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In preparation for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, scheduled for 2002, two preparatory meetings will be organized. Population information will be disseminated to policy makers and programme managers throughout the region by the publication of technical reports, a journal and newsletters and by electronic means. Information networks will be maintained and government and non-governmental organization staff in information

(f) A high-level meeting, regional and local forums and seminars will be organized to enhance the capacity of and dialogue between local and national governments, and civic groups. In addition, the subprogramme will promote the dissemination of information on relevant experiences through web sites, in order to strengthen the capacity of governments, local authorities, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions and other networks to address priority issues in shelter and provision of urban services, such as water, waste water and solid waste management, urban transportation and social services, in particular community-based services, which mainly benefit the urban poor in the Asian and Pacific region.

As a result of these activities, policy makers, programme managers, academics and educators will have gained knowledge concerning population and sustainable development linkages, rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development and shelter and urban issues, and will have improved the technical skills needed for implementing that knowledge.

Extrabudgetary funding from UNFPA will be essential for carrying out operational activities in compliance with ESCAP resolution 54/4 of 22 April 1998, which calls for, inter alia, the provision of assistance to developing countries and areas in the region, paying special attention to least developed countries, in the field of population and sustainable development, and for preparatory activities and reports on the implementation of the resolution at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference to be held in 2002. Paragraph 11.26 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development highlights the importance of establishing national information mechanisms to facilitate the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of population-related information. Paragraph 11.17 of the Programme of Action also emphasizes that elected representatives at all levels should have access to information on population and sustainable development and related issues. Furthermore, at its fifty-fourth session, the Commission emphasized the need to focus more of ESCAP resources on operational activities, in particular those relating to national capacity-building. Publications, databases and training workshops will be delivered to users in response to those mandates.

By the end of the biennium, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Strengthened capacity of government planning officers to incorporate population factors into development planning through improved research and evaluation of programmes;

(b) Delivery of requested inputs to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(c) Improved levels of skill at the national level in acquisition, processing, management and dissemination of information;

(d) Increased availability of population publications and databases on the Internet;

(e) Enhanced institutional development for rural poverty alleviation;

(f) Improved information on proper usage of agro-chemicals for sustainable agricultural development;

(g) Enhanced capacity of and dialogue between local and national government officials and civic groups to address emerging issues in urban governance;

(h) Strengthened capacity of governments to monitor the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Outputs

1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

(a) Commission:

4-1-10 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

4-1-10 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

4-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

4-1-201 Reports of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas (2000, 2001)

4-1-202 Reports on issues related to population and rural and urban development (2 in 2000, 3 in 2001)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

4-1-203 Reports on issues related to population and development (2000, 2001)

4-1-204 Report on issues related to rural poverty alleviation and sustainable agricultural development (2000)

4-1-205 Reports on issues related to urban development, including urban poverty (2000, 2001)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

4-1-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on population database development (2000)

4-1-302 Ad hoc expert group meeting in preparation for the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

4-2-101 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

4-2-102 Population Headliners (6 in 2000, 6 in 2001) (XB)

4-2-103 Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

4-2-104 Agro-chemicals News in Brief (5 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-105 Compendium of United Nations work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 2000-2001 (2000) (RB)

3. *Mandated non-recurrent publications:*

4-2-301 Study on population and development (2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-302 Study on migration and urbanization (2001) (XB)

4-2-303 Study on adolescent reproductive health (2001) (XB)

4-2-304 Manual for creating population directory databases (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-305 Country profile on plant nutrient sector development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-306 Strengthening income-generating opportunities for rural women in selected Central Asian republics (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-307 Rural employment promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

4-2-308 Overview of housing rights in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB)

4-2-3111 Manual on rural poverty alleviation through replication of successful cases (2000) [postponed from 1996-1997]

4-2-3121 Strengthening performance monitoring and evaluation for reproductive health and family planning programmes (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5 *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

4-2-501 ESCAP Population Homepage, including population databases and full text of the Asia-Pacific Population Journal articles, on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/pop/> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-502 Training modules on population information technology on CD-ROM (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Rural Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.fadinap.org> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on Human Settlements on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/huset/index.html> (triannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

7 *Books, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

4-2-701 ESCAP population data sheet (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-2-702 Pamphlets for population information products (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

8 *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

4-2-801 Population directory database series (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-802 Database on family planning/reproductive health and population law (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-803 Database on reproductive health indicators (annual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

4-2-804 Updating of the databases on projects and experts in human settlements development at the joint ESCAP/AIT human settlements web site, maintained by AIT (2000, 2001) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

4-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies, funds, programmes and agencies on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-003 Collaboration with national, regional and interregional bodies outside the United Nations system on matters related to population and development (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-004 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-3-005 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-006 Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, including CIRDAP, and NGOs on matters related to agriculture and rural development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-3-008 Technical and substantive support to the CGPRT Centre (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-3-009 Organization of the RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-3-010 Coordination of programme activities with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNCHS, in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (2000, 2001) (RB)

4-3-011 Technical and substantive support to regional networks in the field of human settlements development, including ACHR, CITYNET, CIVICNET, IULA-ASPAC, Network of Local Government Training Institutes, and TRISHNET (5 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):

4-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-4-102 Advisory services on adolescent reproductive health (3 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-103 Advisory services on population information systems services development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

4-4-104 Advisory services on demographic analysis (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-105 Advisory services on information management on agro-chemicals (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4-4-106 Advisory services on review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization at national and local levels (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):

4-4-201 Pre-Conference seminar on migration and development (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-202 Workshop on population and development (2001) (XB) (20 participants)

4-4-203 Regional training workshop on adolescent reproductive health (2000, 2001) (XB) (30 participants)

4-4-204 Human resources development to improve access to and dissemination of population information through the use of information technologies (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

4-4-205 Workshop on web publishing and population information dissemination (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-206 POPIN/NGO cooperation for population information activities: information needs assessment workshop (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-207 Training workshop on information technology as a tool for training: training workshop for trainers (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-208 Workshop on population information repackaging (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-209 Regional seminar on the Integrated Plant Nutrition System concept implementation (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-210 Regional seminar on policies and programmes on rural poverty alleviation (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

4-4-211 Regional seminar on sustainable agricultural development strategies for Asia and the Pacific (2001) (RB/XB) (15 participants)

4-4-212 Regional seminar on the impact of the Asian economic crisis on rural [illegible]

4-4-213 Seminar on a regional network for integrated pest management and green farming (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-214 Regional workshop on Internet-based networking for sustainable fertilizer information management in Asia and the Pacific (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-215 Subregional seminar on strategies to enhance rural employment (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

4-4-216 Policy seminar on curbing rampant speculation in land and property markets and ensuring equitable access to land and property markets (2001) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-217 Workshop on privatization of urban infrastructure and service delivery and its impacts on the urban poor (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-218 Regional workshop on the promotion of civic engagement in urban management (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

4-4-219 Workshop on capacity-building of local government training institutes (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

4-4-220 Policy seminar on strengthening women's participation in local government (Women Mayors' Summit) (2000) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

4-4-221 Regional policy seminar on urban challenges to local governments in a globalizing world (2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

4-4-2221 Workshops on policy analysis on food security, rural credit and rural institutions (2 in 2000) (RB/XB) [2 outputs postponed from 1998-1999]

4-4-223 Regional high-level meeting in preparation for "Istanbul+5" (2000) (RB/XB) (120 participants)

4 *Field projects:*

4-4-401 Project on community-based safety nets as tools for human development: the human dignity initiative (2000-2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 5. Environment and natural resources development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 4, Environment and sustainable development. The subprogramme is carried out by the Environment and Natural Resources Development Division. The overall goal of this subprogramme is to strengthen national capacity in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, in accordance with Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997 (resolution S-19/2).

The focus of the subprogramme is on supporting the efforts of member and associate member governments in the formulation and implementation of policies which integrate environmental considerations into overall social and economic development plans, as well as in specific sectors, such as energy resources, water resources, mineral and marine resources, land-use and urban planning. At the national level, this entails improving regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks; medium- and long-term integrated planning and strategy development; the use of economic instruments for sustainable consumption and production patterns; and general awareness-raising and educational activities relating to sustainable development. The main thrust of the work is on human resources development through technical assistance and training activities. In addition to the need to strengthen human resources, a major constraint faced by the developing countries of the region is the lack of financial resources for the implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies. To address this

At the subregional and regional levels, the subprogramme will continue to strengthen cooperative mechanisms to address common environmental problems. The work of the subprogramme will include building on the initiatives established under the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, established at the 1994 Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the various networks relating to international environmental conventions, in particular those on climate change and desertification. The secretariat will continue to service the meetings and workshops of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation. Furthermore, efforts will be made to strengthen cooperation with other subregional organizations in the various sectors. The achievements and activities of regional programmes and country experiences will be disseminated through publications and other modalities.

A major event to be organized during the biennium will be the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, scheduled to be held in 2000. The Conference, the fourth of its kind to be organized by ESCAP, will review the implementation of Agenda 21 in the region and highlight the most critical environmental issues faced by the countries at the start of the new century. One of the main outputs of the biennium will be the regional input to the 10-year review of Agenda 21, scheduled to be held in 2002.

During the biennium 1998-1999, a number of countries of the region experienced some of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The biennium 2000-2001 will place greater emphasis on the strengthening of policies and capacity for better preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters, including through the RESAP three-tier network and continued support to the Typhoon Committee, the Panel on Tropical Cyclones, and the Forum on Urban Geology for Asia and the Pacific. Efforts will be made to encourage national governments to improve interministerial and intraministerial coordination, to formulate integrated natural disaster mitigation plans and to operationalize natural disaster management programmes using space technology applications.

Extrabudgetary resources are indispensable to the secretariat for implementing those elements of the programme of work which are aimed at capacity-building and human resources development, as well as continued support for regional and subregional initiatives in the various sectors. Extrabudgetary resources are spent mainly on group training activities, and some are used for printing non-recurrent publications, including training materials, as well as for meeting the cost of an expert in energy efficiency and conservation who will continue to provide advisory services and to implement technical training activities.

At the end of the biennium, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Enhanced national capacity for integrating environmental considerations into economic and social policies; improvement of energy efficiency and conservation potentials; wider application of renewable energy technologies; formulation and implementation of integrated development and management policies in the water, mineral and marine resources sectors; natural disaster preparedness and mitigation; and application of space technology through human resources development activities;

(b) Comprehensive regional review of the implementation of Agenda 21 and international environmental conventions;

(c) Strengthened regional and subregional cooperation on environment;

(d) Development of the Minimum Common Programme on space technology applications.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

5-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

5-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

5-1-103 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000:

5-1-104 Plenary (2000) (10 meetings)

(d) High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development:

5-1-105 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

5-1-201 Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development (2000)

5-1-202 Report on the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (2000)

5-1-203 Report on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2001)

5-1-204 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2000, 2001)

5-1-205 Report on the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development (2001)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

5-1-206 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (2 in 2001)

5-1-207 Report on issues related to natural disaster preparedness and mitigation (2001)

5-1-208 Report on follow-up to the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (2001)

5-1-209 Report on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2001)

5-1-210 Report on the High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development (2001)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000:

5-1-211 Reports (6 in 2000)

5-1-212 Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2000)

(d) High-level Regional Meeting on Energy for Sustainable Development:

5-1-213 Reports (4 in 2000)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

5-1-305 Ad hoc expert group on water use efficiency and conservation (2000)

5-1-306 Ad hoc expert group on space technology applications on the Mainstream Common Programme (2000)

4 Assistance to intergovernmental bodies under their established mandates

5-1-401 Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme (2000, 2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB, XB)

1 Mandated recurrent publications

5-2-101 ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-102 ESCAP Energy News (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-103 Energy Resources Development Series: sustainable energy future: policy options, barriers and action plans (2001) (RB)

5-2-104 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1997 and 1998 (2000) (RB)

5-2-105 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (2001) (RB)

5-2-106 Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-107 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-108 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region (2000) (RB)

5-2-109 Water Resources Journal (3 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-110 Confluence (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-111 Water Resources Series (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-112 Space Technology Applications Newsletter (3 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

5-2-113 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2000, 2001) (RB)

5-2-1101 Energy Resources Development Series (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5-2-1151 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5-2-1161 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5-2-1171 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5-2-1181 Water Resources Series (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5-2-1191 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2000) (RB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

3 Mandated non-recurrent publications

5-2-301 State of the environment in Asia and the Pacific, 2000 (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-302 Guidebook on pollution control in coal-fired power plants (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-303 Environmental challenges into the twenty-first century (2001) (RB)

5-2-304 Asia-Pacific input to "Rio + 10" (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-305 Sustainable development indicators (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-306 Financing of energy efficiency projects in the Asian and Pacific region (2000) (RB/XB)

5-2-307 Guidebook for the promotion of sustainable energy consumption (2001) (RB/XB)

5-2-308 Assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors (2001) (RB)

5.3.002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO and SAARC, ADB and the World Bank, academic institutions, including AIT, NGOs and the private sector on matters relating to energy resources (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5.3.003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, CCOP, ECO, International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, the IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific, IOMAC, Mekong River Commission, SAARC and SOPAC, NGOs, including CITYNET, and the private sector on matters relating to sustainable development of land, water and mineral resources (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5.3.004 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, on matters related to space technology applications (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5.3.005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP, in the implementation of Agenda 21, the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, and preparations for the eighth and ninth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

5.3.006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, FAO and IAEA, on matters relating to energy resources (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

5.3.007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources Development (hosting of the twenty-first session in 2000) and the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, on matters related to natural resources and natural disaster reduction (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5.3.008 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

5.3.009 Collaboration and technical substantive support for SPECA (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (GB/XB)

5.3.010 Technical and substantive support for the Typhoon Committee (2000, 2001) (RB)

5.3.011 Technical and substantive support for the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (2000, 2001) (RB)

5.3.012 Organization and servicing of the RECAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5.3.013 Organization and servicing of the RECAP Subcommittee on Water (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5.3.014 Organization and servicing of the RECAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

Advisory services at the request of the government (number of missions)

5.4.001 Advisory services on strategic environment planning and implementation of environment conventions (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5.4.002 Advisory services in sustainable development and management of energy resources, energy efficiency policy measures in supply and demand side management, promotion of renewable energy technologies (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5.4.003 Advisory services on water and mineral resources development and management, environmental geology and natural disaster reduction (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

5.4.004 Advisory services on space technology development and applications for environment and sustainable development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. Group training courses, workshops, symposia (number of years and number of officials to be trained):

5-4-201 Meetings, workshops on environmental cooperation in North East Asia (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (4B/XB) (80 participants)

5-4-202 Seminars workshops on integration of environmental considerations into economic and socio-decision-making, including strategic environmental planning (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

5-4-203 Regional, subregional and national meetings/workshops to promote the implementation of Agenda 21, including environmental assessment, pollution control, sustainable development indicators, and coastal environmental management (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (75 participants)

5-4-204 Seminar workshop on regional implementation of international environmental conventions (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

5-4-205 Regional, subregional or national seminars/workshops on sustainable energy development and management, promotion of energy efficiency in industries, commercial enterprises, residential sector and/or electrical appliances, promotion of regional cooperation in the harnessing of renewable energy technologies (1 in 2000, 1 in 2001) (RB/XB) (120 participants)

5-4-206 Seminars workshops on water and mineral resources development and management (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (90 participants)

5-4-207 Seminars workshops on natural disaster reduction and environmental and urban geology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

5-4-208 Meetings of regional working groups on current space applications matters (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB) (240 participants)

5-4-209 Meeting of the task force on harmonization of regional initiatives on space technology applications (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

5-4-210 Regional seminar on development of space technology applications for RESAP, phase II (Mountain Countries Programme) (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

5-4-211 Training workshops on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

5-4-212 TCDC arrangements in the area of environmental management (2001) (RB/XB) (4 participants)

5-4-213 TCDC arrangements to facilitate exchange of information on sustainable energy sector development and transfer of technologies for promotion of energy efficiency and enhanced use of renewable sources of energy (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (4 participants)

5-4-214 TCDC arrangements in the areas of water and mineral resources development and management, and natural disaster reduction (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (8 participants)

3. *Fellowships*

5-4-301 Long-term fellowships on space technology applications (10 in 2000, 10 in 2001) (RB/XB)

5-4-302 Medium-term fellowships on space technology applications (10 in 2000, 10 in 2001) (RB/XB)

4. *Field projects, subregional, regional projects*

5-4-401 Pilot projects on space technology applications for natural resources management and natural disaster mitigation (1 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 6. Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 8, Transport and communications. The subprogramme is carried out by the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division.

The focus of work to be undertaken by this subprogramme will be in line with the regional action programme (phase II) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. Particular attention will be paid to addressing the special concerns of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. The subprogramme will also include gender mainstreaming activities in transport and tourism.

The activities for the biennium are aimed at formulating and formalizing regional rail, road and inland waterway routes, and at establishing a legal basis for international traffic to move on those routes. Significant progress is expected to be achieved in the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes, and in the accession status of ESCAP members and associate members to the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 25 April 1992. Activities will be undertaken to increase awareness of the public and private sectors of the various options available for improving the efficiency of transport facilities, logistics and services in the region as well as for strengthening their capabilities in adopting commercially oriented policies and practices.

With a view to increasing awareness of emerging issues in transport, and to create a sound basis for participatory approaches to the sustainable development of transport in the region, a wealth of data and information on transport and related issues will be made available to policy makers, and group training activities will be implemented to enhance national capacity. Assistance will also be provided to increase the knowledge base of policy makers and the public at large of environmental, health and safety issues in transport.

Assistance will also be provided to member and associate member governments in strengthening national capabilities in policy formulation and planning of tourism, and to promote regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development.

For many of the subprogramme outputs, the initial focus will be on senior policy makers, policy advisers and other actors who are in a position to initiate or influence the direction of policy changes. This will be followed by activities designed to assist working-level officials who are responsible for implementing programmes and projects. The subprogramme's outputs will also be used by international organizations, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other civil society groups, as well as the private sector.

Users will be reached through participation in intergovernmental and expert group meetings and study tours, dissemination of information via technical publications, guidelines, newsletters and the Internet, networking of institutions, conduct of group training activities and provision of advisory services.

Extrabudgetary resources are utilized to supplement and complement the work undertaken using regular budget resources by providing data and information, studies, group training and advisory services to strengthen national capabilities in transport and tourism planning. Staff funded by extrabudgetary resources will assist in undertaking technical studies in their respective areas of expertise, making technical presentations at group training activities and providing advisory services to member governments at their request. Extrabudgetary resources will help in making progress towards the formulation and formalization of regional transport networks and in establishing a legal basis for the movement of international traffic on those routes, and will contribute towards increasing awareness among decision makers of emerging issues in the transport and tourism sectors and strengthening national capabilities to address those issues.

By the end of the biennium 2000-2001, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Completion of the formulation of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway;

(b) Increased awareness of the use of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway for international trade and tourism;

(c) Accession by a significant number of Asian countries to the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11;

(d) Progress towards the development of regional transport infrastructure agreements and harmonization of navigation rules and regulations along the Mekong River and improvement of the environment for private sector participation in infrastructure development and operations;

(e) Increased awareness by decision makers of the options available for adopting more commercially oriented approaches to the development and operation of transport facilities and services, including those related to the environment, human health and safety;

(f) Strengthened capacity of tourism planners in policy formulation and planning in tourism;

(g) Increased cooperation among national tourism organizations and tourism education and training institutes.

Outputs

1. **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)**

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

(a) Commission

6-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

6-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

6-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure

6-1-104 Plenary (2001) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation

(a) Commission

6-1-201 Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development (2000, 2001)

6-1-202 Report on implementation of Commission resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges (2000)

6-1-203 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

6-1-204 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000)

6-1-205 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (4 in 2000)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure

6-1-206 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (5 in 2001)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs)

6-1-301 Ad hoc expert group meeting on regulatory issues in the transport sector (2000)

6-1-302 Ad hoc expert group meeting on the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

6-2-101 Review of the developments in transport, communications, tourism and other infrastructure (200)) (RB)

6-2-102 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

6-2-103 ESCAP Tourism Review (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-104 ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

4. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

6-2-301 Guidelines for Asian Highway promotion (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-302 Revised Asian Highway network (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-303 Restructuring of railways (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-304 Trans-Asian Railway development (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-305 Revised guidelines for environmental impact assessment in the road sector (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-306 Road safety database (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-307 Integrated transport systems (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-308 Strengthening the capabilities of regulatory bodies related to the provision of infrastructure facilities and services (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-309 Guidelines for the harmonization of navigation rules and regulations (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-310 Training materials for multimodal transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-311 Port pricing, investment policy and key indicators of port performance (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-312 Regional maritime strategy for containerization (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-313 Human resources development in the maritime sector (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-314 Policy issues on sustainable tourism development (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-315 Policy issues related to tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-316 HIV/AIDS and the transport industry (2000) (RB/XB)

6-2-317 Guidelines on the assessment and mitigation of the impact of transport infrastructure and services on the spread of HIV/AIDS (2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-3181 Road network in North-East Asia (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6-2-3191 Subregional Asian Highway route map (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6-2-3201 Guidelines on a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6-2-3211 Infrastructure pricing (2000) (RB/XB) [postponed from 1998-1999]

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):

6-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/> (quarterly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

6-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on the Asian Highway on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/ah.htm> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-504 ESCAP Homepage on the Trans-Asian Railway on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/tctd/tar.htm> (biannual updating, 2000-2001) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.)*

6-2-801 Refining and updating of the ESCAP database on transport and infrastructure (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-2-802 Updating maritime information on the Internet (2001) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

6-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including World Bank, ADB, APEC, APT, ASEAN, BIMST-EC, ECO, EU, Forum Secretariat, IsDB, MRC, OSSthD and SAARC in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (6 in 2000, 5 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNCITRAL, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO and UPU in implementing: (i) the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific; and (ii) the work programme of SPECA (3 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-003 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including AFFA, APAA, ASCOBIPS, the Global Infrastructure Fund, IAPH, IRCA, PIANC, IRU and the World Development Council in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-004 Collaboration with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-005 Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, PATA and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities (2 in 2000) (RB)

6-3-006 Participation in network of centres of excellence in urban transport planning (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-3-007 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions)*

6-4-101 Advisory services on land transport development and facilitation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-102 Technical assistance on the integration of non-motorized transport into urban transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-103 Advisory services on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (2000) (RB/XB)

6-4-104 Advisory services on an integrated approach to transport planning (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-105 Advisory services on shipping and port development (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-106 Advisory services on the development of inland water transport (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-107 Advisory services on international logistics and multimodal transport (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-108 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities in tourism development (2001) (RB/XB)

6-4-109 Advisory services on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

6-4-201 Seminars/workshops on transport infrastructure development and facilitation (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (80 participants)

6-4-202 Training workshops on an integrated approach to transport planning (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-203 Promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-204 Country-level workshops on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-205 International conference on inland water transport (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

6-4-206 Country-level workshop on investment financing and planning of inland water transport (2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-207 Country-level seminar on shipping policy development (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-208 Subregional/national workshops on the development of multimodal transport (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

6-4-209 Regional seminar on port management and commercialization (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-210 Regional seminar on tourism planning and development (2001) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-211 Regional meetings on the promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (200 participants)

6-4-212 Regional meetings on the promotion of cooperation in tourism development and training (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (100 participants)

6-4-213 Seminar related to tourism infrastructure development, investment and facilitation of travel (2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

6-4-214 TCDC arrangements on tourism development and training (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (20 participants)

6-4-215 Seminar/workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the transport industry (2000) (RB/XB) (25 participants)

6-4-216 Regional meeting on consultative mechanisms for key stakeholders in the maritime industry (2000) (RB/XB) (30 participants)

6-4-2171 Regional seminar on infrastructure pricing (2000) (RB/XB) (50 participants) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6-4-2181 Training seminar on transport of dangerous goods (2000) (RB/XB) (20 participants) [postponed from 1998-1999]

6-4-219 Meeting of Asian railway chief executives (2000) (RB/XB) (40 participants)

Subprogramme 7. Statistics

Introduction

The subprogramme encompasses the work that had been carried out previously in 1998-1999 under subprogramme 9, Statistics. The subprogramme is carried out by the Statistics Division.

Consistent with the terms of reference of the Commission, the main objectives of this subprogramme are to continue to facilitate the development of sustainable national statistical capabilities in the Asian and Pacific region, to disseminate comparable social, economic and other relevant statistics on the regional members and associate members of the Commission, and to promote the effective utilization of information technology within the public sector. The main activities are (a) to assist and provide substantive and other services to the Committee on Statistics, which plays a central role in promoting and coordinating regional statistical development, (b) to organize technical cooperation activities, including advisory services and technical seminars, and disseminate technical material, with the aim of promoting skills development and sharing of experiences and technical knowledge in statistics and information technology, (c) to organize workshops and training programmes in statistics and information technology, especially in association with the statistical training programmes of SIAP, (d) to prepare, review and coordinate at the regional level the development and revision of statistical standards and their eventual implementation, (e) to undertake the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information on the region, and to provide statistical support for analytical work undertaken within the secretariat; and (f) to maintain close collaboration and cooperation with relevant regional, subregional and international organizations to promote improved coordination of technical assistance in statistics.

The end-users of the outputs of this subprogramme are national statistical offices, computerization and information technology focal points, and planning, monitoring and decision-making agencies in the member and associate member governments, regional, subregional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, national and international institutes, and scholars concerned with economic, social, demographic and environmental research and policies, and individual firms and persons. In implementing the subprogramme, the secretariat will take due account of the different stages of statistical development among countries of the region, paying particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. Greater reliance will be placed on enhanced cooperation among countries and coordination of inputs from statistically advanced countries.

The United Nations Statistical Commission, ESCAP and its Committee on Statistics have emphasized the need for timely and relevant high quality information in national planning and implementation of policies and programmes designed to attain sustainable economic growth and social development. Extrabudgetary resources are expected to contribute to the secretariat's efforts to strengthen the capacity of countries to identify, produce and disseminate data needed for their economic and social development, and to create more effective information technology policies. The Commission, the Bali Declaration on Population and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development have urged governments to improve their population data production and dissemination capacity, especially by assigning priority to the application of modern information technology. Funding from UNFPA is expected to help the secretariat to assist countries in their efforts to improve their capacity to collect, process and disseminate such data. In particular, this will be done by sharing the experiences of advanced countries, good practices and information on lessons learned to help developing countries to make progress and avoid wasting resources on experimentation.

By the end of the biennium 2000-2001, the following accomplishments are expected to be achieved:

(a) Improved coordination of and collaboration on statistical development and statistical standards in the region;

(b) Increased national capacity in development of statistical information systems and use of information technology.

Outputs

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

7-1-101 Plenary and committees (2000) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

7-1-102 Plenary and committees (2001) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-103 Plenary (2000) (6 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

7-1-201 Report on issues related to statistics (2000)

7-1-202 Report of the Committee on Statistics (2001)

7-1-203 Report on the progress achieved and difficulties encountered by members and associate members in addressing the Y2K problem (2000)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

7-1-204 Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (2000)

7-1-205 Report on selected issues in statistical development (2000)

7-1-206 Report on issues in computerization in the public sector (2000)

7-1-207 Report on an integrated presentation of work programmes on statistics in the region (2000)

7-1-208 Report on activities of the secretariat since the eleventh session of the Committee (2000)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work (intermediate outputs):*

7-1-301 Meeting of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (2001)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

7-2-101 Statistical Newsletter (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-102 Government Computerization Newsletter (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-103 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

7-2-104 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (2001) (RB)

7-2-105 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (4 in 2000, 4 in 2001) (RB)

7-2-106 Asia-Pacific in Figures (2000, 2001) (RB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, video tapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes (number of the activities for each type):*

7-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Statistics on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/stat/index.htm> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

7.2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Public Sector Computerization on the World Wide Web <http://www.unescap.org/stat/gc/pschome.htm> (monthly updating, 2000-2001) (RB)

6. *Exhibits:*

7.2-601 Exhibit for the Committee on Statistics (2000) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

7.2-701 Wall chart on general statistics (2000, 2001) (RB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

7.2-801 Data and information disseminated on electronic media (CD-ROM, diskettes etc.) (2000, 2001) (RB)

7.2-802 Operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (2000, 2001) (RB)

7.2-803 Responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information (2000, 2001) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

7.3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center and the Pacific Community (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB)

7.3-002 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the International Statistical Institute (2001) (RB)

7.3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission and Working Group, regional conferences of statisticians, city groups and the FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB)

7.3-004 Collaboration with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (2000, 2001) (RB)

7.3-005 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA Country Support Teams in the region (3 in 2000, 3 in 2001) (RB/XB)

7.3-006 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (2000, 2001) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments (number of missions):*

7.4-101 Advisory services on analysis and dissemination of population data, and utilization of census data (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

7.4-102 Advisory services on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services and on the development of government information systems and the efficient use of information technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia) (number of events and number of officials to be trained):*

7-4-201 Seminars on organizational and institutional issues affecting national statistical services and on the development of government information systems and the efficient use of information technology (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (35 participants)

7-4-202 Regional workshops on various aspects of population statistics, including sampling applications (1 in 2000, 2 in 2001) (RB/XB) (60 participants)

7-4-203 Regional workshops on socio-economic and environment statistics (2000, 2001) (RB/XB) (50 participants)

7-4-204 Regional workshops on various aspects of economic statistics (2 in 2000, 1 in 2001) (RB/XB) (75 participants)

7-4-2051 Regional/subregional workshops on environment statistics and accounting (2 in 2000) (RB/XB) [2 outputs postponed from 1998-1999]

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities envisaged under the resolutions adopted at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND AD HOC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Subsidiary body, Ministerial Conference and officers	*Session*	*Document symbol of report*
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development	Second session Bangkok 13-15 October 1999	E/ESCAP/1165
Chairperson:	Mati Sinha (India)	
Vice-Chairpersons:	Wanee Sanphamharak (Thailand)	
	Mitsuo Usuki (Japan)	
Rapporteur:	Abdolreza Ghaffari (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development	Second session Bangkok 24-26 November 1999	E/ESCAP/1178
Chairperson:	Evelyn B. Pantig (Philippines)	
Vice-Chairpersons:	Taveparana Tinamas (Thailand)	
	R.K. Rai (India)	
	Hiroshi Horikawa (Japan)	
	Mohammad Ismail Alishani (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
	A.V. Annenkov (Russian Federation)	
Rapporteur:	Pamela Atkinson (Australia)	
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas	Second session Bangkok 1-3 December 1999	E/ESCAP/1169 and Corr.1
Chairperson:	Abdul Hamid Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ly Thuch (Cambodia)	
Rapporteur:	Chan-Hyoung Park (Republic of Korea)	

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body, Meeting, Conference and Officers	Session	Document symbol (if issued)
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries	Ninth session 30 July-2 Aug. 2000 Bangkok	E/ESCAP/1185
Chairperson	Mona Brookes (Kiribati)	
Vice-Chairperson	Zahid Nasrullah (Pakistan)	
Rapporteur	Jason Yat (Vanuatu)	
Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	New Delhi 13-20 November 1999	E/ESCAP/1196
Chairperson	Mira Mansingh Hora (India)	
Vice-Chairpersons	Muhammad Nasir Uddin Khan (Bangladesh)	
	Dasho Sonam Rinchen (Bhutan)	
	Lay Sarath (Cambodia)	
	Hui Yongzheng (China)	
	Ri Kwang Il (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	
	Claude Allegre (France)	
	Muhammad A.S. Hikam (Indonesia)	
	Mehdi Dadeshian (Islamic Republic of Iran)	
	Souk Santhavong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)	
	Chan Nyein (Myanmar)	
	Surendra Prasad Choudhary (Nepal)	
	Banu Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)	
	Arthit Ourairat (Thailand)	
	Dang Vu Minh (Viet Nam)	
Rapporteur	H. Hartiono Diregodihardjo (Indonesia)	

Annex IV

SALES PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Asia-Pacific Development Journal	
Vol. 5, No. 2, December 1998	E.99.II.F.35
Vol. 6, No. 1, June 1999	E.00.II.F.2
Vol. 6, No. 2, December 1999	E.00.II.F.18
Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1999	E.00.II.F.12
Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region	
Vol. 13, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Kyrgyzstan*	E.99.II.F.40
Vol. 14, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Mongolia*	E.99.II.F.41
Attracting Foreign Direct Investment to Pacific Island Countries: Lessons from East and South-East Asian Experience	E.00.II.F.20
Development Papers	
No. 20, Asian Economic Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Policy Lessons	E.99.II.F.71
No. 21, Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-Making: Institutional Issues	E.00.II.F.9
Development of the Trans-Asian Railway: Trans-Asian Railway in the Southern Corridor of Asia-Europe Routes	E.00.II.F.4
Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999	E.99.II.F.10
Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1995 and 1996	E.99.II.F.52
Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development III (Energy Infrastructure Policies and Issues) (Energy Resources Development Series No. 38)	E.99.II.F.29
Enhancing Effectiveness of Aid (Least Developed Countries Series No. 2)	E.99.II.F.63
Establishing a Social Development Management Information System: Issues and Perspectives	E.99.II.F.43
Financial Sector Reform, Liberalization and Management for Growth and Stability in the Asian and Pacific Region: Issues and Experiences	E.99.II.F.48
Growth with Equity: Policy Lessons from the Experiences of Selected Asian Countries	E.00.II.F.14
Guidelines and Manual on the Protection and Rehabilitation of Contaminated Rivers (Water Resources Series No. 78)	E.99.II.F.70
Guidelines on Road Safety Action Plans and Programmes	E.00.II.F.5

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Handbook for Literacy and Post-literacy for Women's Empowerment in South Asia	E.00.II.F.11
Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific No. 25	E.99.II.39
Institution and Human Resource Capacity Building in ASEAN	E.99.II.F.40
Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy-Making Processes: Background Readings	
Vol. I. *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at National Level: Country Studies on Fiji, Nepal, Philippines and Tonga*	E.99.II.F.42
Vol. II. *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at Local/Provincial Level: Country Studies on Shenzhen in China, Suva in Fiji, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and North West Frontier Province in Pakistan*	E.99.II.F.43
Vol. III. *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at Sector Level: Country Studies on the Agriculture Sector in Malaysia, the Mining Sector in Papua New Guinea, and the Tea Sector in Sri Lanka*	E.99.II.F.44
Vol. IV. *Modalities for Environmental Assessments: Country Studies on Flood Loss Reduction in Bangladesh, Urban Development and Environmental Protection in Shanghai, China and Fishery Resources Development and Management in Samoa*	E.00.II.F.3
Manual on Community-based Responses to Critical Social Issues: Poverty, Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS	E.99.II.F.55
Promoting a Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific	E.99.II.F.64
Social Development Information Exchange through the Internet	E.99.II.F.33
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXIX, No. 1, March 1999	E.99.II.F.31
Vol. XXIX, No. 2, June 1999	E.99.II.F.36
Vol. XXIX, No. 3, September 1999	E.99.II.F.61
Vol. XXIX, No. 4, December 1999	E.00.II.F.24
Statistical Profiles	
Women in the Republic of Korea – A Country Profile (Statistical Profiles No. 16)	E.99.II.F.24
Women in Japan – A Country Profile (Statistical Profiles No. 17)	E.99.II.F.25
Women and Men in the ESCAP Region (Statistical Profiles No. 18)	E.99.II.F.3
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1998	E/F.99.II.F.1
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1999	E/F.00.II.F.1

Title	*United Nations publication Sales number*
Strategic Environmental Planning	E.99.II.F.47
Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizers in the Pacific Subregion	E.99.II.F.73
Sustainable Development of Land and Mineral Resources in Asia and the Pacific: National Policy Initiatives and Trends in Mining Taxation (Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series, vol. 5)	E.99.II.F.36
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific	
No. 68	E.98.II.F.22
No. 69	E.98.II.F.23
Water Quality of Selected Rivers in Asia: Protection and Rehabilitation	E.99.II.F.56

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/L.142	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/L.143 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/1156	Amendment to the terms of reference of the Commission: admission of Georgia as a member of the Commission	4
E/ESCAP/1157	Report on the current economic situation in the region and related policy issues	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/1158	Development through globalization and partnership in the twenty-first century: an Asia-Pacific perspective for integrating developing countries and economies in transition into the international trading system on a fair and equitable basis	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/1159	Implementation of Commission resolution 53/1 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission	6
E/ESCAP/1160	Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation on its eleventh meeting	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1161	Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme: regional economic cooperation	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1162	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 55/2 on economic and financial monitoring and surveillance in the ESCAP region	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1163 and Corr.1	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	7 (a)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/1164 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1165	Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development on its second session	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1166	Report of the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1167 and Corr.1	Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific 2000	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1168 and Corr.1	Emerging issues and developments related to mineral supply and land use planning for sustainable development	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1169 and Corr.1	Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas on its second session	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1170	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1171	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1172	The empowerment of the rural poor through decentralization in poverty alleviation actions	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1173	Report of the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, 1-5 November 1999	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1174	Guidelines on the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1175	Report on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and on progress in the implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing for Asia and the Pacific	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1176	Equalization of opportunities: inclusion of disabled persons in the development process	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1177	Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1178	Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development on its second session	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/1179	Report on the implementation of Commission resolution 52/9 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges	7 (d)
E/ESCAP/1180	Report on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	7 (d)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/1181	Emerging issues and developments in statistics	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/1182	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/1183	Progress achieved and difficulties encountered in addressing the Y2K problem	7 (e)
E/ESCAP/1184	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its sixth session	7 (f)
E/ESCAP/1185/ Rev.1	Programme planning: draft medium-term plan of ESCAP for the period 2002-2005	8 (a)
E/ESCAP/1186 and Corr.1	Programme planning: report on the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999	8 (b)
E/ESCAP/1187	Programme planning: proposed programme changes, 2000-2001	8 (c)
E/ESCAP/1188	Programme planning: tentative calendar of meetings and training programmes, April 2000-March 2001	8 (d)
E/ESCAP/1189 and Corr.1	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	9
E/ESCAP/1190	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	10
E/ESCAP/1191	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	10
E/ESCAP/1192	Report of the Mekong River Commission	10
E/ESCAP/1193	Report of the Typhoon Committee	10
E/ESCAP/1194	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	10
E/ESCAP/1195 and Add.1 and 2	Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/1196 and Corr.1	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission	12

Annex V

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 1999

A. List of publications

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Directory of Trade and Investment-related Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, 9th ed. (ST/ESCAP/2035)

Guidebook on Trading with China (5th rev. ed., 1999) (ST/ESCAP/1819)

How to do Business in Kyrgyzstan (ST/ESCAP/1927)

Studies in Trade and Investment 35, *Trade and Investment Complementarities among the South-Western Member Countries of ESCAP* (ST/ESCAP/1932); 36, *Trade and Investment Scenarios and Liberalization Agenda for Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1965); 38, *Alignment of the Trade Documents of Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1892); 39, *International Trade Transaction Models as an Aid to the Process of Harmonization (India, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka)* (ST/ESCAP/1965); and 40, *Non-tariff Measures with Potentially Restrictive Market Access Implications Emerging in a Post-Uruguay Round Context* (ST/ESCAP/2024)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 13-24

Traders' Manual for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand, 2nd ed. (ST/ESCAP/1969)

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 6, No. 1, June 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1972); No. 2, December 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1992)

Development Papers, No. 20, *Asian Economic Crisis: Causes, Consequences and Policy Lessons* (ST/ESCAP/1973); No. 21, *Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy Making: Institutional Issues* (ST/ESCAP/1990)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1941)

Financial Sector Reform, Liberalization and Management for Growth and Stability in the Asian and Pacific Region: Issues and Experiences (ST/ESCAP/1940)

Growth with Equity: Policy Lessons from the Experiences of Selected Asian Countries (ST/ESCAP/2007)

Institution and Human Resource Capacity Building in ASEAN (ST/ESCAP/1945)

Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Policy Making Processes: Background Readings: vol. I, *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at National Level: Country Studies on Fiji, Nepal, Philippines and Tonga* (ST/ESCAP/1944); vol. II, *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at Local/Provincial Level: Country Studies on Shenyang in China, Suva in Fiji, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and North West Frontier Province in Pakistan* (ST/ESCAP/1966); vol. III, *Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms at Sector Level: Country Studies on the Agriculture Sector in Malaysia, the Mining Sector in Papua New Guinea, and the Tea Sector in Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1946); vol. IV, *Modalities for Environmental Assessments: Country Studies on Flood Loss Reduction in Bangladesh, Urban Development and Environmental Protection in Shanghai, China and Fishery Resources Development and Management in Samoa* (ST/ESCAP/2083)

Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment: Lessons for Economies in Transition (ST/ESCAP/1983)

Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

Implications of the Asian Crisis on Sustainable Industrial and Technological Development in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1962)

Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific, No. 25 (ST/ESCAP/1939)

Institutional Development for Investment Promotion and Technology Transfer (ST/ESCAP/1993)

Rural Industrialization as a Means of Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1976)

Technology Transfer and Technological Capability-building in Asia and the Pacific: vol. 2, *ASEAN, NIEs, SAARC and the Islamic Republic of Iran* (ST/ESCAP/1750); vol. 4, *Emerging Issues in Regional Technological Capability-building and Technology Transfer* (ST/ESCAP/1951)

Utilizing Industrial Complementarities in an Era of Open Regionalism (ST/ESCAP/1971)

Environment and sustainable development

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal, vol. 11, No. 2

Assessment of Water Resources and Water Demand by User Sectors in the Philippines (ST/ESCAP/1949)

Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region: vol. 13, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Kyrgyzstan* (ST/ESCAP/1853); vol. 14, *Geology and Mineral Resources of Mongolia* (ST/ESCAP/1831)

Atlas of Urban Geology: vol. 10, *Urban Geology in the Asian and Pacific Region* (ST/ESCAP/1804); vol. 11, *Urban Geology of Dhaka, Bangladesh* (ST/ESCAP/1862)

Confluence, No. 33, June 1999

Development and Management of Non-living Resources in the Coastal Zones of the Asia-Pacific Region, vol. 4, *Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Non-living Marine Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1978)

Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific 1995 and 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1957)

Energy Development Series, No. 36, *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development III (Energy Infrastructure Policies and Issues)* (ST/ESCAP/1822)

Energy Efficiency: Compendium of Energy Conservation Legislation in Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1908)

ESCAP Energy News: vol. XV, Nos. 1 and 2; vol. XVI, Nos. 1 and 2

ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter, vol. 5, Nos. 1-4

Interrelationship between Trade and Environment in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2025)

Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region Series, vol. 10, *Oil and Natural Gas Resources and Potential in North-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/1991)

Mineral Resources Assessment, Development and Management Series, vol. 5, *Sustainable Development of Land and Mineral Resources in Asia and the Pacific: National Policy Initiatives and Trends in Mining Taxation* (ST/ESCAP/1952)

Space Technology and Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: Compendium 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1968)

Space Technology Applications Newsletter, vol. 16, Nos. 3 and 4; vol. 17, Nos. 1-3

Strategic Environmental Planning (ENRD/1999/1)

Water Quality of Selected Rivers in Asia: Protection and Rehabilitation (ST/ESCAP/1956)

Water Resources Journal: March 1999 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/200); June 1999 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/201); September 1999 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/202); December 1999 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/203)

Water Resources Series, No. 78, *Guidelines and Manual on the Protection and Rehabilitation of Contaminated Rivers* (ST/ESCAP/SER.F/78)

Poverty alleviation: social development

Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons: Mid-point – Regional Perspectives on Multisectoral Collaboration and National Coordination (ST/ESCAP/2004)

Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons: Mid-point – Country Perspectives (ST/ESCAP/2014)

Community-based Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (ST/ESCAP/1929)

Compendium of Centres of Excellence for Human Resources Development Research and Training (ST/ESCAP/1930)

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, Nos. 12 and 13

ESCAP HRD Series on Training for Social Development, ESCAP HRD Course for Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1954)

Establishing a Social Development Management Information System: Issues and Perspectives (ST/ESCAP/1953)

Handbook for Literacy and Post-literacy for Women's Empowerment in South Asia (ST/ESCAP/2009)

Manual on Community-based Responses to Critical Social Issues: Poverty, Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS (ST/ESCAP/1922)

Promoting a Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1982)

Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled Persons: Pilot Projects in Three Cities (ST/ESCAP/2005)

Social Development Information Exchange through the Internet (ST/ESCAP/1967)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 39-41

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Agro-chemicals News in Brief, vol. XXII, Nos. 1-4; Special Issue, December 1999

Compendium of United Nations Work Programmes on Rural Poverty Alleviation (1998-1999) (ST/ESCAP/1958)

ESCAP/IULA (International Union of Local Authorities). Local Government in Asia and the Pacific: A Comparative Analysis of Fifteen Countries (ST/ESCAP/1955)

Government-NGO Cooperation Series, No. 5, *Bringing the Beijing Platform for Action to the Grass Roots* (ST/ESCAP/2016)

Handbook on Strengthening the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific Through Computer Networking (ST/ESCAP/1917)

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 9, Nos. 1-4

Promoting Women's Participation in Economic Development in Indo-China: Plans of Action (ST/ESCAP/1906)

Statistics on Women in Asia and the Pacific, 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1995)

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Thailand (RDS/FADU/1); *in Indonesia* (RDS/FADU/2); *in the Pacific Subregion* (RDS/FADU/3)

WINAP Newsletter, Nos. 23-25

Women in Development Discussion Paper Series: No. 1, *Impact of Globalization on Women: Women and Economic Liberalization in the Asian and Pacific Region*; No. 2, *Migration of Women in the Context of Globalization in the Asian and Pacific Region*; No. 3, *Violence Against Women in South Asia*; No. 4, *Women in Small Businesses in Indo-China: Issues and Key Approaches*; No. 5, *Gender and Sustainable Development: Issues and Strategies*

Poverty alleviation: population and development

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 13, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1964); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1986); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2002); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/2039)

Asian Population Studies Series: No. 150, *Gender Dimensions of Population and Development in South-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/1950); No. 151, *The Family and Older Persons in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1997); No. 152, *The Family and Older Persons in China, Indonesia and Thailand* (ST/ESCAP/1998); No. 154, *The Impact of Globalization on Population Change and Poverty in Rural Areas* (ST/ESCAP/1977)

Government-NGO Cooperation Series: No. 7, *Successful Approaches to Government-NGO Cooperation* (ST/ESCAP/1947)

Transport and communications

A Review of Regional and Subregional Agreements on Land Transport: Routes, Issues and Alternative Frameworks (ST/ESCAP/2034)

Development of the Trans-Asian Railway: Trans-Asian Railway in the Southern Corridor of Asia-Europe Routes (ST/ESCAP/1980)

Environmentally Friendly Energy for Transport (ST/ESCAP/2041)

ESCAP Tourism Newsletter, Nos. 11 and 12

ESCAP Tourism Review, No. 19, *Developing Ecotourism in the Asian Region* (ST/ESCAP/2011)

ESCAP/UNDP Guidelines for Participatory Planning of Rural Infrastructure (ST/ESCAP/2029)

Evaluation of Infrastructural Interventions for Rural Poverty Alleviation (ST/ESCAP/1959)

Framework for the Development of National Shipping Policies (ST/ESCAP/1988)

Guide to Urban Transportation Planning: Quick-response Travel Estimation Techniques (ST/ESCAP/2042)

Guidelines on Road Safety Action Plans and Programmes (ST/ESCAP/1996)

Inter-island Shipping: Issues and Strategies — A Pilot Study on the Alleviation of Poverty in Remote Island Communities in Indonesia (ST/ESCAP/2017)

Review of Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1984)

Road Development and the Environment: Methodologies for Minimizing Environmental Damage (ST/ESCAP/2027)

Role of Inland Waterways within the Integrated Transport System (ST/ESCAP/2028)

Strategy and Guidelines for the Upgrading of Asian Highway Routes (ST/ESCAP/1961)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific: No. 68, *Urban Transport in the Asian and Pacific Region* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/68); No. 69, *Participatory Approach to Transport Infrastructure Development* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/69)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1999 (ST/ESCAP/2010)

Government Computerization Newsletter, Nos. 13 and 14

Newsletter on Application of New Technology to Population Data, Nos. 1-3

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXIX, No. 1, March 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1943); No. 2, June 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1966); No. 3, September 1999 (ST/ESCAP/1987); No. 4, December 1999 (ST/ESCAP/2022)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 112-115

Statistical Profiles: No. 16, *Women in the Republic of Korea – A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1769); No. 17, *Women in Japan – A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1770); No. 18, *Women and Men in the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1912)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 1998 (ST/ESCAP/1936); *1999* (ST/ESCAP/2018)

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Pacific Island Countries: Lessons from East and South-East Asian Experience (ST/ESCAP/1989)

Least Developed Countries Series: No. 2, *Enhancing Effectiveness of Aid* (ST/ESCAP/1981); No. 3, *Options for Exchange Rate Policy* (ST/ESCAP/2037)

B. List of meetings

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Seminar on International Markets for Seafood, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, January

ESCAP/ECO Seminar on Trade and Investment Information Networking in the South-Western Subregion of ESCAP, Tehran, February

ITC/ESCAP Workshop on Eco-labelling and Trade in Textiles and Clothing, Bangkok, February

Seminar on Return on Investment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, March

Working Committee Meeting on the Eighth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair, ASPAT'99 Seoul: third session, Bangkok, April; fourth session, Seoul, July

Symposium on the Comprehensive Development of the Greater Mekong Subregion under Phase III of the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, Bangkok, April

Informal Consultation Meeting of the Bangkok Agreement, Bangkok, April

Seminar on Capacity-building to Discuss New Directions and Advisory Services in Marketing, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, May

Follow-up Workshop on the Use of Natural Dyes and Low-impact Chemical Dyes, Vientiane, May

Introductory Seminar on Quality Improvement, Vientiane, June

Workshop on Basic Fabric Design and Development, Vientiane, June

Expert Group Meeting on the Trade Effects of Non-tariff Measures, Bangkok, July

ESCAP/UNCTAD/ADB Meeting of Senior Officials on the Future WTO Trade Agenda and Developing Countries, Bangkok, August

Working Committee on ASPAT 2000, Delhi – Asia-Pacific Millennium Fair: first session, New Delhi, August; second session, Bangkok, October

Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, eleventh meeting, Bangkok, September

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Commodity-related Issues, Bangkok, September

Seminar on Integration of Indo-China into the Global Trading Environment under the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam, October

Eighth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair, ASPAT'99 Seoul, Seoul, October

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Subregional Seminar on Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Policies in the Economies of North and Central Asia, Yerevan, January

Regional Seminar on Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes, Bangkok, June

Regional Seminar on Growth with Equity, Seoul, June

Seminar on Growth Zones in South Asia: What Can We Learn from South-East Asia? Dhaka, September

National Seminar on the Main Objectives of Macroeconomic Policy in Tajikistan: From Stabilization to Growth, Dushanbe, October

Subregional Seminar on the Implementation of Tax Reform in the Economies of Central Asia, Bishkek, November

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, December

Expert Group Meeting on Economic and Financial Monitoring and Surveillance in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, December

Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

National Workshop on Private Sector Development, Privatization and Deregulation, Kathmandu, February

ESCAP/APCTT Seminar on Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Promoting Industrial Complementarities among Subgroups of Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region, New Delhi, March

Regional Seminar on the Implications of the East Asian Crisis for Sustainable Industrial and Technological Development in Asia and the Pacific and the World at Large, Bangkok, April

Regional Workshop on the Mechanization of Rice Transplanting and Seeding, Suwon, Republic of Korea, May

ESCAP/ECE Workshop on Training of Trainers in the Management of Small and Medium Enterprises in Central Asian Economies in Transition, Almaty, May

National Workshops on Private Sector Development, Privatization and Deregulation: Lessons from ASEAN Economies' Experiences, Yerevan, May; Dushanbe, September

International Workshop and Exhibition on the Promotion of Trade in Technical Services among Asian and Pacific Countries, Lahore, Pakistan, July

National Seminars on Capacity-building for the Adoption of ISO 14000, New Delhi, August; Bangkok, September; Dhaka and Kathmandu, October; Colombo and Islamabad, November; Beijing, December

Regional Seminar on Small Rural Industries in a Liberalized Economic Environment and the Impact on Poverty Alleviation, Trivandrum, India, August-September

International Symposium and Exhibition on Fruit/Vegetable Processing Technology and Industrialization, Yantai, China, October

ESCAP/APCTT Expert Group Meeting on the Development and Application of Science and Technology Indicators in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October

Governing Board of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, fourteenth session, Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran, November

ESCAP/APCTT/IROST (Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology)/Regional Cooperation Workshop on Quality and Environmental Management Systems and Environmentally Sound Technologies, Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran, November-December

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing the Utilization of Industrial Complementarities and Tripartite Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region, Beijing, December

Environment and sustainable development

Regional Workshop on Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Development, Bangkok, January

Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific, fourth session, Bangkok, January

Expert Group Meeting on Emission Monitoring and Estimation, Niigata, Japan, January

IDNDR (International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction)/ESCAP Regional Meeting for Asia: Risk Reduction and Society in the Twenty-first Century, Bangkok, February

Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, fifth meeting, Kobe, Japan, February

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, fourth meeting, Tehran, March

Regional Meeting on Stakeholder Involvement in Strategic Environmental Management, Bangkok, March

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, fourth meeting, Manila, April

CCOP/ESCAP/World Bank/United Kingdom Department for International Development Workshop on Industrial Minerals and Offshore Aggregates in Asia, Bangkok, May

Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Effective Consumer Information for Sustainable Energy Use, Seoul, May

Workshop on the Application of Geographic Information Systems for Mineral Resource Assessment in North-East Asia, Changchun, China, May

RICAP Subcommittee on Water, Bangkok, forty-third meeting, May; forty-fourth meeting, December

Regional Working Group on Space Sciences and Technology Applications, fourth meeting, Kuala Lumpur, May

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, fifth session, Bangkok, June

High-level Expert Group Meeting Preparatory to the Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June

Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems and Satellite-based Positioning, fifth meeting, Bangkok, June

International Seminar on Energy Efficiency in the Fuel and Energy Complex in the Russian Far East, Khabarovsk, Russian Federation: phase I, June; phase II, September

RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, fifth meeting, Bangkok, June

RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, twelfth meeting, Bangkok, June

TCS (Typhoon Committee Secretariat)/ESCAP/WMO Workshop on the Impact of El Niño Southern Oscillations/La Niña on Meteorology and Hydrology in the Typhoon Committee Area, Macao, June-July

Brainstorming Workshop on the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, Bangkok, August

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Commercialization of Renewable Energy Technologies and Their Technology Transfer, Bangkok, September

ESCAP/FAO Regional Workshop for Decision Makers on Remote Sensing/Geographic Information Systems Applications to Agricultural and Environmental Management, Almaty, September

Eighth Regional Seminar on Earth Observation for Tropical Ecosystem Management, Yangon, October

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Policies and Strategies in Sustainable Development of Land and Mineral Resources in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, November

Regional Workshop on Wastewater Management in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November

Working Group of the RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, November

ESCAP/IAEA/AIT Regional Workshop on Enhanced Electricity System Analysis and Planning, Incorporating Economic, Social and Environmental Aspects in Decision-making, Bangkok and Pathumthani, Thailand, November

Steering Committee of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2000, Bangkok, November

Typhoon Committee, thirty-second session, Seoul, November

ESCAP/ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) Science Symposium on "Space Technology for Improving the Quality of Life in Developing Countries – A Perspective for the New Millennium", New Delhi, November

Regional Seminar on Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Industry and Financing of Related Public and Private Investments, Bangkok, November-December

Regional Seminar on the Use of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Coastal Zone Management, Bangkok, December

Second Meeting of the Dialogue Forum on Regional Initiatives for Space Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, Tehran, December

Task Force Meeting on Air Pollutant Emission Monitoring, Kyoto, Japan, December

Poverty alleviation: social development

ESCAP National HRD Courses for Youth Development: Bangladesh and Nepal, January, China and Maldives, October

National Human Resources Development Workshops on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation among Youth and Children: India, Philippines and Sri Lanka, February; Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan, April; Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, May; Cambodia, June; Thailand, November; China, December

RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda, second meeting, Bangkok, February

Meeting of the Jury of the 1998 ESCAP HRD Award, Bangkok, February

Subregional HRD Evaluation Workshop on Post-literacy Programme Development for Women in South Asia, Hua Hin, Thailand, March

Training Workshops on Enhancing Self-help Capabilities of Disadvantaged Groups: India, March; Malaysia, April; Thailand, May

Regional Workshop on Promoting the Right to Development, Bangkok, March-April

Preparatory Meeting for the Project on Integrating Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation into Action Against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Youth in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, April

RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns: seventeenth meeting, May; eighteenth meeting, November

Interregional Workshop on the Social Implications of the Financial Crisis and Expert Group Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, May

Expert Group Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, May

National Workshop on the Establishment of a Social Development Management Information System, Manila, July

ESCAP HRD Course for Poverty Alleviation (pilot phase), Bangkok, July

RICAP Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda and Inter-agency Task Force on the International Year of Older Persons (combined third meetings), Bangkok, August

Regional Seminar on Support and Protection of Older Persons as Consumers, Shanghai, China, October

International Symposium on Planning Attainable Targets for Societies for All Ages, Macao, October

Subregional Evaluation Workshops on Promoting Literacy for Women Through Capacity-building of Local Organizations, Vientiane, October; Port Vila, November

Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November

Regional Forum on Education for Children and Youth with Disabilities into the Twenty-first Century, Bangkok, November

Regional Forum on Meeting the Targets for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, and Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November

Field Study-cum-Regional Seminar on Poverty Alleviation among Rural Persons with Disabilities, Hyderabad, India, December

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Internet Orientation and Web Site Development Training Course, New Delhi, January

RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok: third meeting, February; fourth meeting, June

Workshop on the Establishment of the Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, March

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, Bangkok, April

Subregional Meeting on Promotion of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women through NGO Networks in the Pacific, Suva, May

Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Income-generating Opportunities for Rural Women in Selected Central Asian Republics, Almaty, May

ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO/NISF (National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers) National Workshop on Promotion of an Integrated Plant Nutrition System in Northern Viet Nam, Hanoi, June

ESCAP/Grameen Bank Regional Seminar on the Empowerment of Women in Poverty: Challenges in the New Millennium, Dhaka, July

National Workshops on Strengthening Linkages between Rural Credit, Agricultural Extension and Marketing, Kandy, Sri Lanka, and Kathmandu, August; Thimphu, September-October

Workshops on the Development of an Integrated Plant Nutrition System for Sri Lanka, Colombo, September; and for the Philippines, Cavite, October

High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, Bangkok, October

Symposium on Integrated Plant Nutrition Management, Islamabad, November

Workshops on Fertilizer Marketing Systems and Related Government Policy, Islamabad and Kathmandu, November

Training of Trainers Workshop on Innovative Approaches, Methodologies and Technologies for Training of Local Government Officials, Beijing, November

RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women, November

Training Workshop on Strategic Management, Kathmandu, December

Poverty alleviation: population and development

RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, third meeting, February; fourth meeting, June

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Globalization and Population Change, Bangkok, March

Policy Seminar on the Impact of Globalization on Population Change and Poverty in Rural Areas, Bangkok, March-April

Pacific POPIN Consultative Meeting, Suva, May

Pacific POPIN Information Technology Training Workshop, Suva, May

Regional Training Workshop on Improving National Capacity in the Interpretation and Analysis of Data for the Key Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programmes, Chiang Mai, Thailand, May

RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, sixth meeting, Bangkok, June

Asia-Pacific POPIN Training Workshop on the Repackaging of Population Data and Information: Preparing for the 2000 Round of Population Censuses, Bangkok, August

Training Workshop on Interpretation and Analysis of Demographic Data on Gender Dimensions of Population and Development, Bangkok, August-September

Regional Seminar on Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for the Progress of Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programmes, Bangkok, September-October

Training Workshop on Information Technology for Population Information Professionals, Beijing, October

East and South-East Asia POPIN Consultative Meeting, Beijing, October

Transport and communications

Country-level Seminars on the Development of Shipping Policies: Bangkok and Dhaka, February; Karachi, Pakistan, June

Country-level Workshop on the Role of Freight Forwarders, Chittagong, Bangladesh, February

Country-level Workshops on Development and Promotion of the Freight Forwarding Industry in the Pacific: Port Vila and Suva, March; Port Moresby, April; Nuku'alofa and Apia, July

World Bank/ESCAP Regional Technical Workshop on Transport and Transit Facilitation, Bangkok, April

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector: ninth meeting, Yangon, May; tenth meeting, Vientiane, November

Executive Committee of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism: second meeting, Macao, May; third meeting, Brisbane, Australia, November

General Council of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, Macao, May

Seminar on Human Resources Development in Tourism, Macao, May

National Seminars on Land Transport Facilitation Measures: New Delhi and Phnom Penh, May; Beijing, July

Regional Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, Dhaka, May

National Seminar on the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway Network, Dhaka, May

ESCAP/World Bank Workshop on Public-Private Partnership in Road Management and its Financing, Colombo, June

Seminar on Tourism Promotion in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, July

Seminar on Expansion of Tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion through Improved Air Transport, Vientiane, July

National Workshop on the Development of a National Ecotourism Strategy for Viet Nam, Hanoi, September

IRF (International Road Federation)/ESCAP Second Silk Road Rehabilitation Conference, Tashkent, September

Seminar on the Development of Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, October

Seminar on Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure Development, Dhaka, October

Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Consultative Mechanism among Shipowners, Shippers and Ports, Bangkok, October

National Seminar on Inland Water Transport, Kuching, Malaysia, November

Country-level Workshops on the Development of Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Vientiane, Ho Chi Minh, Phnom Penh and Yangon, November

ESCAP/IMO Country-level Workshop on Safety of Coastal and Inland Navigation, Manila, November

Seminar on the Promotion of Tourism Investment in the Republic of Korea, Seoul, November

ESCAP/UNDP/UNAIDS Workshop on the Reduction of HIV Vulnerability within the Land Transport Sector: Towards a Public Policy Framework for Addressing HIV/AIDS in the Transport Sector, Bangkok, November

IEE AP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development, fourth meeting, Bangkok, November

Seminar on Sustainable Tourism Development in Cambodia, Phnom Penh, December

Forum on Regional Cooperation on Maritime Manpower Planning, Training and Utilization, Bangkok, December

Statistics

Training Seminar on International Merchandise Trade Statistics for Countries in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, March

Seminar on Poverty Statistics, Bangkok, June

Working Party on the Application of New Technology to Population Data, fourth meeting, Manila, July; fifth meeting, Bangkok, October

Regional Resource Group on Integrating Paid and Unpaid Work, first meeting, Bangkok, August; second meeting, Ahmedabad, India, December

Training Workshop for Trainers on the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Bangkok, September

Workshop on the Application of New Information Technology to Population Data, Bangkok, October

Working Group of Statistical Experts, eleventh session, Bangkok, November

Seminar on Time Use Surveys, Ahmedabad, India, December

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Regional Seminar on Options for Exchange Rate Policy in the Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, March

Study Visit on Options for Exchange Rate Policy in the Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, November

Expert Group Meeting on Facilitating Trade and Investment Using Information Technology, Nadi, Fiji, November

Consultative Meeting on the Final Review of Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, Bangkok, December

C. List of advisory services

Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

China, to co-present a paper on trade and environment-related issues at and participate in the seminar for APEC economies organized by the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) in Hangzhou and to have discussions with CAITEC in Beijing, and to make a presentation on the latest developments in trade and environment-related issues and participate in the CAITEC/APEC dissemination seminar on trade and environment in Hangzhou and also to hold discussions with officials of the Chinese Academy, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, in Beijing on regional trade developments in Asia

Fiji, to assist the Fiji Trade and Investment Board in the areas of electronic commerce to facilitate trade and investment for Fiji, including strategic policy advice on the building blocks for the introduction of electronic commerce to catalyse trade and investment in Fiji

Guam, to advise on plans for the regional development of fisheries, agriculture and tourism

India, (i) to advise the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment on a policy approach for integrating trade facilitation and electronic commerce into the work of the Ministry so as to catalyse the effective marketing and export of rural products; and (ii) to provide technical assistance to the Department of Information Technology, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, on a specific business model that can be taken up with the first phase of the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Network proposed by the government, best practices that need to be incorporated in the Network to facilitate its functioning, and guidance to departments on the terms and conditions of exclusive service contracts to be entered into with the Network

Malaysia, (i) to advise the members of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers on the latest developments in international trade policy and prospects for Malaysian exports as well as on WTO issues, regional economic arrangements and trade promotion matters, and (ii) to deliver a keynote address on the global development and production of tropical fruits and vegetables and to participate in the National Horticultural Conference organized by the Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

Maldives, to assist the Government of Maldives in introducing microlevel efficiency measures to facilitate trade by aligning the trade documentation of Maldives in conformity with the United Nations Layout Key, and capturing the resulting aligned and standardized documents in TradeFacil, the trade documentation software of ESCAP.

Myanmar, to advise the Ministry of Commerce on developments in international trade policy, regional and subregional trade, and other trade and investment-related issues.

Nepal, to conduct the training workshop on WTO for government officials and business sector representatives.

Pakistan, to advise the Ministry of Commerce (in Islamabad) and the Export Promotion Bureau (in Karachi) on developments in international trade policy, regional trade developments, multifibre arrangements and other trade and investment-related issues.

Philippines, to brief the Philippine Trade Training Centre officials and representatives of the Philippine Garments and Textile Export Board and the Philippine food processing sector on trade environment issues, and hold discussions.

Samoa, to provide technical assistance to the Department of Trade and Industry on WTO issues, including accession, regional and subregional trade matters, export promotion and international trade development.

Thailand, (i) to advise the Department of Business Economics, Ministry of Commerce, on policy issues of trade facilitation for future negotiations and discussions in WTO and other international forums; (ii) to advise the Thai Bond Dealing Center on the development of a secondary bond market in Thailand with a view to advancing, in the longer term, the creation of the Asian bond market, and (iii) to advise on an ADB project on government bond market development in Thailand.

Tonga, (i) to advise the government on international trade matters with emphasis on WTO and recent developments in regional trade and economic cooperation, such as APEC, ASEAN and the Bangkok Agreement, and conduct a seminar on WTO issues and current international trade development, and (ii) to advise the government on the rationale behind the aligned and standardized trade documents, approvals for the revised trade documents, and demonstration on the draft version of TradeFacil incorporating the revised version and comments.

Vanuatu, (i) to advise the Department of Trade, Industry and Investment on identification of the policy issues in trade facilitation that could be the subject matter of future discussions in WTO, identification of issues and measures in trade facilitation which would be of significance to Vanuatu, creation of awareness of these policy issues and measures among policy makers and international trade service providers through a workshop, and proposal of a pilot project to introduce some trade facilitation measures to catalyse trade from Vanuatu, and (ii) to conduct a training workshop on the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement for Vanuatu officials and private sector representatives.

Viet Nam, (i) to speak on the subject of trade and poverty alleviation in the United Nations trade policy as well as to participate in the workshop on the United Nations economic and social activities and Viet Nam, which was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and funded by the Ford Foundation, in Hanoi, (ii) to advise the Foreign Trade and Development Centre and to act as a resource person on WTO matters at the seminar on the integration of Indo-China into the global environment, and (iii) to advise the Viet Nam Trade Network on trade and investment and technical assistance and training on electronic commerce, and setting up a trade point.

Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Brunei Darussalam, to advise on macroeconomic management and adjustment, and on structural measures, including privatization, government budgeting and expenditure control.

Maldives, to assess the present level of macroeconomic monitoring and to brief senior officials on the possibilities of obtaining ESCAP assistance for the development of a comprehensive framework for macroeconomic forecasting. In the course of the mission, another issue was raised by the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the problems emanating from the recommendation of the United Nations Committee on Development Policy that Maldives should be "graduated" and lose its status of a least developed country in 2000.

Mongolia, to advise on macroeconomic management with special reference to trade, balance of payments and exchange rate policies and other related topics, including macroeconomic forecasting.

Tajikistan, to advise on macroeconomic policies and related institutional reforms and to assist with the preparations for SPECA related activities.

Uzbekistan, to conduct a training programme on construction of a macroeconomic model for analysing policies in Uzbekistan.

Regional economic cooperation, industry and technology

Fiji, (i) to advise on industrial development and planning and the experience of the Republic of Korea in science and technology development, technology transfer, joint ventures, entrepreneurship development and small venture business, and (ii) to hold a consultation and carry out a fact-finding mission to Fiji and Vanuatu on promoting private capital flows to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in small island developing economies.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, (i) advise on technology development for industrialization and the experience of the Republic of Korea in science and technology development, joint ventures, technology transfer, entrepreneurship development and small technology based enterprises.

Maldives, to advise on modern industrialization, and key influencing factors for technology-based industrialization.

Mongolia, to advise on modern industrialization and the experience of the Republic of Korea in science and technology development, joint ventures, technology transfer, entrepreneurship development and small technology based enterprises.

Nepal, to advise on modern industrialization, and key influencing factors for technology-based industrialization.

Pakistan, to advise the Ministry of Science and Technology on the establishment of an accreditation system and the ISO 9000 certification system.

Tajikistan, to conduct a joint ESCAP/ECO advisory fact-finding mission to Dushanbe on industrial policy formulation and implementation.

Vanuatu, to hold a consultation and carry out a fact-finding mission to Fiji and Vanuatu on promoting private capital flows to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in small island developing economies.

Viet Nam, to advise on modern industrialization, and key influencing factors for technology-based industrialization.

Environment and sustainable development

Cambodia, (i) to advise the Ministry of Environment on the state of the environment in the country, and to review the policy, institutional and legislative aspects of environmental planning, (ii) to advise the Ministry of Nature and the Environment through the following: (a) reviewing documents prepared by national experts for presentation at the national training workshop on environmental planning and management; (b) participating in the workshop and presenting technical comments on water policy and management; and (c) delivering a series of lectures at the workshop; and (iii) to advise the Ministry of Environment on environmental planning and management, prepare technical material for the workshop, review the technical material/course modules being prepared by the national experts and finalize them, and provide technical support and deliver lectures on various issues related to environmental planning and management.

China, to act as a resource person and session chairman at the International symposium towards cooperation, utilization and coordination management of international rivers with the Yunnan Institute of Geography and the Science and Technology Commission.

India, (i) to elaborate economic and non-economic instruments for the control of air pollution, and (ii) to prepare a comprehensive strategy and action plan for their implementation.

Indonesia, (i) to assist the Ministry of Industry and Trade on institutional improvement and capacity-building for environmental management for its Research and Development Centre for Resources, Regions and Environment, Jakarta, and (ii) to make preparations and provide technical backstopping for an advisory mission on traditional small-scale gold mining.

Islamic Republic of Iran, (i) to assist the Tehran Regional Water Company in drafting a national action plan for the integrated management of drinking water, identify bottlenecks and recommend solutions to drinking water problems; (ii) to advise the Ministry of Energy on the energy sector reform restructuring process; and (iii) to advise on a pre-feasibility study for energy efficiency improvement and an energy management course in Tehran.

Kyrgyzstan, (i) to advise on transboundary river management, and prepare and submit the mission report to the government, and (ii) to advise the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources on strengthening cooperation with neighbouring countries on water resources problems.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to identify problems of urban development resulting from geological factors and discuss geology for urban planning.

Maldives, to advise the Water and Sanitation Authority on strategic planning for water resources.

Mongolia: (i) to advise the Ministry of Nature and Environment on the preparation of training modules on environmental planning and management for transition to a market economy and, in particular, the use of market instruments for environmental protection and management; (ii) to assist the Ministry through the following: reviewing documents prepared by national experts for presentation at the national training workshop on environmental planning and management; participating in the workshop and presenting technical comments on water policy and management; delivering a series of lectures at the workshop; and providing technical support for the workshop; and (iii) to advise on energy efficiency in the cement industry at Darhan.

Myanmar: (i) to advise the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the development of the draft environmental protection law and draft environmental impact assessment rules; (ii) to assist the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the formulation of national policy for integrated water resources planning and development; (iii) to advise the National Commission on the preparation of the framework of state of the environment reports; (iv) to advise the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on the drafting of raw water quality standards in rivers; and (v) to advise on the establishment of national freshwater and effluent quality standards.

Nepal: (i) to assist the Ministry of Water Resources in drafting regulatory measures for the control and treatment of domestic effluent; (ii) to advise the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat on integrated water resources development, policy and strategies; and (iii) to assist in the drafting of freshwater and effluent quality standards as follow-up to the expert group meeting on the protection and rehabilitation of contaminated rivers in Asia and the Pacific.

Pakistan: (i) to advise the Pakistan Council on Research for Water Resources on declining water levels in Baluchistan; and (ii) to advise on energy efficiency, including guidance and recommendations on energy auditing to energy managers who participated in the practical training course on efficient energy management in industry.

Philippines: (i) to assist the Department of Energy in the development of socio-environmental sustainability indicators of the Philippine Energy Plan, 1998-2003; and (ii) to assist the National Water Resources Board in the establishment of a national water information network.

Russian Federation, to advise on energy efficiency improvement and emission measurement in the Russian Far East, Khabarovsk.

Sri Lanka, to act as a resource person at the Conference on Space Sciences and Technology Applications for National Development.

Tajikistan, to advise on the promotion of the mineral resources sector and to prepare the mission report for submission to the government.

Thailand: (i) to discuss water policy and strategic planning concepts with the National Economic and Social Development Board and other government agencies involved in water resources development; and (ii) to advise on various aspects of economic geology and mineral investment promotion.

Viet Nam: (i) to assist the Department for Water Resources and Irrigation Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in the control and treatment of domestic effluent; (ii) to advise on the freshwater and effluent quality standards as follow-up to the expert group meeting on the protection and rehabilitation of contaminated rivers in Asia and the Pacific; and (iii) to advise on strengthening capacity in project formulation and management, and to conduct a training course.

Poverty alleviation: social development

Cambodia, to advise on the implementation of a national youth policy framework.

Fiji: (i) to represent ESCAP at the WHO regional "Health Islands" workshop; (ii) to assist the Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-Ethnic Affairs; (iii) to assist the UNIFEM workshop on women in politics; (iv) to assist in the National Youth Summit; (v) to support regional planning development in Fiji through the above Ministry; (vi) to follow up on planning for the Ministry; (vii) to review information on child labour and abuse at the University of the South Pacific, UNICEF etc.; and (viii) to support planning for the Fiji Disabled People's Association.

India, to advise government participants in the international diploma course on population and development.

Islamic Republic of Iran, to advise the Social Affairs, Plan and Budget Organization on national and regional follow-up and preparations for the review of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

Malaysia, to advise on preparations for the national policy dialogue.

Maldives, to advise the Ministry of Youth and Sports on the organization of a national training course for youth development personnel.

Micronesia (Federated States of), to review social development issues and plans.

Myanmar, to advise on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region.

Niue, to finalize the Niue socio-economic review.

Palau, to advise on the public sector reform programme.

Philippines, (i) to advise the Department of Social Welfare and Development on matters relating to the World Summit for Social Development, and (ii) to advise on capacity-building for HRD policy-making for youth.

South Africa, to advise on ESCAP experience on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons and assist in drafting recommendations on disability policy development and implementation of disability rights in Africa.

Thailand, (i) to advise on the implementation of the IICA-funded project on assistance to people with disabilities, (ii) to advise on the planning of the country monograph and planning for the country's policy dialogue, and (iii) to advise HelpAge International on preparation for the International Year of Older Persons and implementation of the Macao Plan of Action on Ageing.

Tuvalu, to review the national welfare policies with the Department of Community Affairs.

Viet Nam, to advise on the preparations for the national youth policy framework.

Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

India, to conduct and service a field study-cum-regional seminar on poverty alleviation among rural persons with disabilities.

Sri Lanka, (i) to evaluate the "success case-replication" sites of the three counterpart agencies and conduct field training, and (ii) to approach various international donors to seek funding for follow-up project proposals.

Viet Nam, to assist in urban community-based savings and credit systems.

Poverty alleviation: population and development

Cambodia, (i) to participate in the mid-term review of the country programme; (ii) to assist the National Institute of Statistics in conducting a workshop on analysis of population census data; (iii) to assist the National Institute of Statistics in analysis of the 1998 population census; and (iv) to assist the National Institute of Statistics in finalizing labour force and migration reports, to participate in the dissemination workshop and prepare inputs for national and provincial population projects.

Mongolia, to participate in the tripartite review of the UNFPA project in Mongolia.

Viet Nam, to assist the General Statistical Office in finalizing the report on the preliminary results of the 1999 census.

Transport and communications

Bangladesh, (i) to advise on development of the exclusive tourist zone, and (ii) to advise on build-operate-transfer and public-private partnerships.

Indonesia, to assist on multimodal transport by assessing the current situation and identifying constraints faced by the multimodal transport industry.

Kazakhstan, (i) to analyse the cooperative arrangements of the SPECA member states in the field of transport and border-crossing; (ii) to analyse the adopted procedure/scheme of working consultations between Kazakhstan and other SPECA member states; (iii) to analyse the outcomes of the first and second sessions of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing held in Almaty in October 1998 and in Astana in June 1999, respectively; and (iv) to develop, based on the results of the above analyses, recommendations for the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Tourism.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise the government on the design, operation and management of inland ports.

Malaysia, to advise on the formulation of Protocol 9 on Dangerous Goods under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit.

Nauru, (i) to undertake environmental impact assessments for the proposed harbour facilities, and (ii) to undertake on-the-job training related to quality management and environmental management systems.

Niue, to survey and inspect Sir Robert's Wharf and boat landings, and access channels, and advise on necessary improvements.

Pakistan, (i) to review the existing shipping policies and reformulation of new policies for the next century vis-à-vis developments on the international scene, and (ii) to advise on private sector participation in infrastructure development in shipping and ports.

Sri Lanka, (i) to provide technical support for the workshop on oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation; (ii) to advise on the implementation of the ILO Port Workers Development Programme; (iii) to assess the structure and scope of training currently being undertaken at the Mahapola Port Training Centre; (iv) to assess the training facilities, including background study materials, that would be

required by the Training Centre to implement the Port Workers Development Programme; (v) to identify suitable resource persons from the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the private sector to undertake implementation of the Programme; (vi) to discuss the content of the Programme with the Centre and identify priority areas and to explain the Programme to the different sectors of Centre staff; (vii) to assist the Centre in the conduct of a training of trainers programme for resource persons who will deliver the Programme for the port of Colombo; and (viii) to prepare recommendations on a structured programme of human resources development, which builds on the Programme.

Thailand: (i) to advise the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and attend the BMA/stakeholders' meeting; (ii) to develop the "Vision and Strategies Towards a Sustainable Rattanakosin"; (iii) to advise on tariff formulation and project investment; and (iv) to advise on rural infrastructure development.

Uzbekistan: (i) to analyse the results of the implementation of the ALTID project in Central Asia; (ii) to analyse the adopted cooperative arrangements in Central Asia involving Uzbekistan in the field of land transport at the subregional and regional levels; (iii) to analyse the outcomes of the international conference on Asia-Europe land bridges (May 1999) and the Silk Road Conference (September 1999) conducted in Tashkent; and (iv) to make recommendations to refine the position of Uzbekistan in the field of land transport at the national, subregional and regional levels for the near future.

Statistics

Brunei Darussalam: to advise on compiling expenditure on GDP deflators; and implementation of the 1993 SNA.

Cambodia: (i) to advise the National Institute of Statistics on the compilation of national accounts specifically to review and assess the compilation of GDP in preparation for the technical assistance grant of ADB; and (ii) to serve as a training expert for the training workshop on the compilation of the 1993 SNA in Phnom Penh.

Fiji, to advise on the compilation of the 1993 SNA and rebasing of GDP.

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to advise on various aspects of the 1993 SNA and to serve as a training expert.

Macao, China, to advise the Census and Statistics Office on the compilation of national accounts.

Mongolia, to conduct a training workshop on the 1993 SNA and to advise on compilation methodology.

Myanmar, to advise on various aspects of the 1993 SNA and to serve as a training expert.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Bangladesh: (i) to assist in the seminar on the potential for establishing growth zones encompassing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal; and (ii) to act as a resource person at the seminar on the global financial crisis and recessionary conditions in the region.

Fiji: (i) to hold consultations with the Forum Secretariat and UNDP on 1999 technical assistance activities; and (ii) to consult with the Ministry of Economic Planning and support the project on measuring governance.

Maldives, to assist in the pre-Sixth Round Table Meeting between Maldives and its Development Partners, and the Meeting itself.

Nauru, to act as a resource person at the National Economic and Development Summit.

New Caledonia, to assist the Chamber of Trade on strategic planning.

Palau, to advise on the Palau Public Sector Reform Programme.

Samoa, to participate as a resource person in the IMF-sponsored Ministerial Conference on the Reform of Public Finance and to provide the government with technical assistance on economic management.

Solomon Islands: (i) to advise on the planning, conduct and follow-up action of the National Economic and Development Summit; (ii) to liaise with the World Bank and ADB missions on technical assistance collaboration on the Solomon Islands Policy and Structural Reform Programme; and (iii) to advise on the compilation of national accounts.

Thailand, to advise on the compilation of government sector accounts and act as a resource person at the seminar on general government accounts of Thailand in accordance with the 1993 SNA.

Tuvalu: (i) to provide technical assistance on the proposed merger of the National Bank and the Development Bank and to finalize details of the proposed merger; and (ii) to advise on public service policy for local governments in Tuvalu.

Vanuatu: (i) to advise on new legislation for the Vanuatu Credit Union League; and (ii) to hold discussions with the government and produce a governance programme for Tokelau.

Viet Nam, to advise on various aspects of the 1993 SNA and to serve as a training expert.

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in the consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6(b), decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to act as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which those organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete (e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation.

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a), (b), (c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23, the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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